

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

PERMIT APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING
CENTRAL MAINE POWER
NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT

HEARING OFFICER: COLONEL WILLIAM CONDE

MODERATOR/FACILITATOR: BETH GOSSELIN

Reported by Robin J. Dostie, a Notary Public and
court reporter in and for the State of Maine, on
December 5, 2019, at the Ramada Inn and Conference
Center, 490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, Maine,
commencing at 4:30 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT:

TAMMY TURLEY, CHIEF, REGULATORY DIVISION

JAY CLEMENT, PROJECT MANAGER, REGULATORY DIVISION

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. GOSSELIN: Good afternoon. I would like
3 to welcome you to the public hearing for the
4 Department of the Army permit action for the proposed
5 New England Clean Energy Connect project. My name is
6 Beth Gosselin and I'm the Chief of Public Affairs for
7 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England
8 District. I will be your moderator and facilitator.
9 Our Hearing Officer today is Colonel William Conde,
10 the Commander and District Engineer of the Army Corps
11 of Engineers in New England. At this time, I will
12 introduce the people at the front table. Miss Tammy
13 Turley, Chief of the Regulatory Division, Mr. Jay
14 Clement, Regulatory Project Manager and Matt Harris
15 with our New England District Office of Counsel.

16 Should you need copies of the public notice,
17 the hearing procedures or other pertinent
18 information, it is available at the registration
19 tables outside. I should point out that the Corps
20 has made no decision regarding the permit application
21 in question. We are here tonight to conduct a public
22 hearing regarding a permit application submitted by
23 Central Maine Power to conduct work in waters of the
24 United States to construct the New England Clean
25 Energy Connect project. To obtain an accurate record

1 of all statements, this hearing is being recorded by
2 a court reporter and a transcript will be prepared.

3 The agenda for this hearing is our Hearing
4 Officer, Colonel Conde, will address the hearing. He
5 will then be followed by the Corps' Regulatory Chief,
6 who will discuss our regulatory authorities. The
7 Corps' Regulatory Project Manager will then provide
8 an overview of the regulatory evaluation process and
9 a summary of impact associated with the New England
10 Clean Energy Connect project.

11 Before we begin, I'd like to remind you of
12 the importance of completing the registration cards
13 that were available at the door. These cards serve
14 two purposes; first, they let us know you're
15 interested in this project evaluation so we can keep
16 you informed; second, they provide a list of those
17 who wish to speak tonight. If you did not complete a
18 card but wish to speak or receive further information
19 regarding this permit one will be provided at the
20 registration desk. As there are many who wish to
21 provide comment, you will provided two minutes to
22 speak. These statements along with all written
23 statements submitted will receive equal
24 consideration. Should you have a statement that is
25 longer than two minutes you may hand it in to our

1 court stenographer seated at the -- seated at my
2 right.

3 One additional comment, we're here to
4 receive your comments, not to enter into any
5 discussion of those comments or to reach any
6 conclusions. Any question should be directed to the
7 record and not to individuals on the panel. Thank
8 you.

9 Ladies and gentlemen, our Hearing Officer,
10 Colonel William Conde.

11 (Applause.)

12 COLONEL CONDE: Thanks, Beth. Can you hear
13 me okay back there?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yup.

15 COLONEL CONDE: Okay. Good evening and
16 welcome to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public
17 hearing on a request for a permit by Central Maine
18 Power for their proposal to conduct work in waters in
19 the U.S. and in order to construct a New England
20 Clean Energy Connect project.

21 Before I begin, I'd like to thank you for
22 involving yourself in this permit review process.
23 Please feel free to bring up topics that you feel
24 need to be provided on the record and I assure you
25 that all your comments will be considered during this

1 process. I am Colonel Bill Conde, the District
2 Commander for the New England Corps of Engineer
3 Districts. Our headquarters is in Concord,
4 Massachusetts and our boundary for the district cover
5 all six New England states.

6 Today's hearing is being conducted for the
7 purpose of acquiring information that will be
8 considered in evaluating Central Maine Powers'
9 application for a Department of the Army federal
10 permit. It is an opportunity for you to present your
11 views, opinions and information on this permit
12 action. At this hearing you will have the
13 opportunity to submit oral or written statements, to
14 call witnesses who may present oral or written
15 statements and to present recommendations as to an
16 appropriate decision. This information gathering
17 hearing is not an adversarial process. Accordingly,
18 statements will not be made under oath and
19 cross-examination is not allowed. Rebuttal of
20 testimony is permitted to the extent that it's
21 relevant if time is available and if parties desire
22 to make such responses.

23 I will now hand it over to my District
24 Regulatory Chief, Miss Tammy Turley, to provide an
25 overview of the Corps of Engineers Regulatory

1 Program. Miss Tammy.

2 MS. TURLEY: Thank you, Sir. Hello. My
3 name is Tammy Turley and I'm the Regulatory Division
4 Chief for the New England District. The Corps of
5 Engineers Regulatory Program is primarily
6 administrated under two laws.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear. Speak up,
8 please.

9 MS. TURLEY: Sure. I'll start over. The
10 Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is primarily
11 administered under two laws; Section 10 of the Rivers
12 and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water
13 Act. Section 10 requires that all work in, over and
14 under a navigable water requires a Corps of Engineers
15 permit and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
16 requires a permit for the discharge of dredged or
17 fill material into a water of the U.S.

18 During the evaluation of this proposal
19 several requests for a public hearing were received
20 and the District Engineer determined to hold this
21 hearing. The purpose of this hearing, again, is to
22 gain information regarding the permit request
23 submitted by the applicant. The Corps of Engineers
24 is neither an opponent nor an advocate for the
25 project and is here -- is not here to defend the

1 proposal. Our intent is to gather information to be
2 used in the evaluation of the proposed activity.

3 At this time, Jay Clement, the Regulatory
4 Project Manager, will provide information regarding
5 the permit evaluation process.

6 MR. CLEMENT: Hello. My name is Jay Clement
7 and I would like to provide details on the permit
8 evaluation criteria the Corps of Engineers uses as
9 part of the permit evaluation process and a summary
10 of where we are in our review process.

11 The decision whether to issue a permit will
12 be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts.
13 The evaluation of the probable impacts which the
14 proposed activity may have on the public interest
15 requires a careful weighing of all those factors
16 which become relevant. The benefits which reasonably
17 may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be
18 balanced against those -- against its reasonably
19 foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to
20 authorize a proposal and, if so, the conditions under
21 which it will be allowed to occur are determined by
22 the outcome of the public interest review. That
23 decision will reflect the national concern for both
24 the protection and utilization of important
25 resources. All factors which may be relevant to the

1 proposal will be considered including cumulative
2 effects. Among the public interest review factors we
3 commonly consider are conservation, economics,
4 aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic
5 properties, fish and wildlife values, land use,
6 navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation,
7 water supply and conservation, water quality, energy
8 needs, safety, consideration of property ownership
9 and in general the needs and welfare of the people.
10 Mitigation is also an important aspect of the review
11 and balancing process. Consideration of mitigation
12 occurs throughout the review process and includes
13 avoiding and minimizing impacts to the waters of the
14 United States or compensating for any unavoidable
15 resource losses.

16 All comments received by the Corps of
17 Engineers including those from this process will be
18 fully considered to determine whether to issue,
19 condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To
20 make this decision, comments are used to assess the
21 probable impacts of the public upon the public
22 interest review factors that I already reviewed.

23 The Corps of Engineers issued a public
24 notice on March 26, 2019. To summarize, the proposal
25 is to place temporary and permit fill in waterways

1 and wetlands in order to construct a new high voltage
2 direct current transmit -- electrical transmission
3 line and related facilities capable of delivering up
4 to 1,200 megawatts of electrical energy from
5 hydroelectric sources to Quebec to the New England
6 control area specifically in response to a request
7 for proposals for long-term contracts for clean
8 energy projects from the State of Massachusetts.
9 This work includes the following components: A new
10 145.3 mile 320 kilovolt transmission line from the
11 Canadian border to a new DC to AC converter station
12 located here in Lewiston as well as substation
13 improvements and several rebuilds of existing lines.
14 Approximately 53 miles of the new line from the
15 Canadian border to The Forks will be located within a
16 previously undeveloped 300 foot wide transmission
17 line -- transmission corridor rather, only 150 feet
18 of which will be cleared. The remainder of the 145.3
19 miles of transmission line from The Forks to
20 Lewiston, roughly 73 percent of the line, will be
21 installed within existing transmission corridors.
22 The new line will be installed beneath the Upper
23 Kennebec River via horizontal directional drilling.
24 All other wetland and waterway crossings will be
25 aerial. The project will result in approximately 4

1 acres of permanent and 47 acres of temporary impacts
2 to wetlands. The project will also result in direct
3 and indirect impacts to vernal pools and numerous
4 streams and will also result in approximately 111
5 acres of forested wetland clearing. It is important
6 to note that the Corps' authority is limited to
7 impacts to waters of the United States and that is
8 limited to approximately 17 percent of the proposed
9 line. Approximately 120 miles of the proposed line
10 are outside waters of the United States and the Corps
11 has no authority in those upland areas.

12 To compensate for the project's projected
13 natural resource impacts, including unavoidable
14 impacts to waterways and wetlands, the applicant is
15 currently proposing a multi-faceted compensation
16 plan. This plan is intended to address both federal
17 and state requirements for compensatory mitigation.
18 Specific to the impacts to aquatic resources the plan
19 includes wetland and upland preservation on a total
20 of 1,022.4 acres at three locations throughout the
21 project corridor. These parcels range in size from
22 81 to 831 acres. Three additional parcels are
23 intended to address state-specific resources of
24 concern. The applicant also proposes a contribution
25 of \$3.07 million into Maine's Natural Resource

1 Compensation, or excuse me, Conservation Program also
2 known as the Maine In Lieu Fee Program, those monies
3 will be used to purchase credits to offset lost
4 aquatic resource and function. Further monetary
5 contributions address state-specific resource needs.
6 The applicant is proposing these measures to --
7 seeking to compensate for and lessen the project's
8 impact on aquatic and other natural resources.

9 There are a number of procedural actions
10 still remaining which must occur before the court may
11 make a final decision in this matter, these include
12 but are not limited to, concluding consultations and
13 coordinations pursuant to the Federal Endangered
14 Species Act and the National Historic Preservation
15 Act. The applicant must also obtain water quality
16 certification from the Maine Department of
17 Environmental Protection. Lastly, the Corps must
18 conduct an Environmental Assessment pursuant to the
19 National Environmental Policy Act. This will
20 determine the need for further analysis under the
21 same act.

22 I would like to acknowledge the presence in
23 the audience of Dr. Julie Smith, Program Management
24 Specialist with the U.S. Department of Energy. Dr.
25 Smith is attending this hearing to gather information

1 in support of their review of Central Maine Powers'
2 application for a Presidential Permit. Any person,
3 firm, cooperative, corporation or other entity who
4 operates an electric power transmission facility
5 crossing the border of the United States for the
6 transmission of electrical energy between the United
7 States and a foreign country must have a Presidential
8 Permit. The Department of Energy is responsible for
9 implementing Executive Order 10485 as amended by
10 Executive Order 12038, which delegates the Department
11 of Energy authority to issue Presidential Permits for
12 the construction, operation, maintenance or
13 connection of electrical transmission facilities at
14 the U.S. international borders. For information
15 concerning the Presidential Permit Application or the
16 Department of Energy's review process, you may
17 approach Dr. Smith at a break or after the hearing.
18 She's waving her hand over there if you're interested
19 over there in the corner. Thank you, Julie.

20 You may also contact Ms. Melissa Pauley,
21 Policy Analyst, Office of Electricity, U.S.
22 Department of Energy and her point of contact and
23 other information concerning the Department of
24 Energy's process is available in written format on
25 the table over there for you to pick up. Thank you.

1 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you, Jay. Ladies and
2 gentlemen, the hearing today will be conducted in a
3 manner so that all who desire to express their views
4 will be given an opportunity to do so. To preserve
5 the right of all to express their views, I ask that
6 there be no interruptions and that all speakers abide
7 by the time restrictions so that all who wish to
8 speak will have an opportunity. We do not wish to
9 have one individual deny others their rights to
10 express their views or their concerns on the proposed
11 project. When you came in copies of the public
12 notice and the procedures to be followed at this
13 hearing were available. If you did not receive these
14 both are available at the registration desk. I will
15 not read either the procedures or the public notice,
16 but they will be entered into the record.

17 A transcript of this hearing will be
18 prepared and the record will remain open and written
19 comments may be submitted tonight or by mail or email
20 until January 6, 2020. All comments will receive
21 equal consideration. Anyone who wishes to send
22 written comments should forward those comments to our
23 project office in Maine or our headquarters in
24 Concord, Massachusetts.

25 Lastly, I'd like to re-emphasize that the

1 Corps of Engineers has made no decision with regard
2 to this permit. It is our responsibility to fully
3 evaluate Central Maine Powers' proposed activity and
4 its impact to aquatic resources prior to our decision
5 and in order to accomplish that we appreciate your
6 input. Again, we're here to receive your comments,
7 not to enter into any discussion of those comments or
8 to reach any conclusions. Any questions should be
9 directed to the record and not to the individuals on
10 the panel.

11 As you came in tonight, the registration
12 cards you were asked to fill out are used to identify
13 individuals who wish to make a statement tonight. It
14 also provides us with information needed to notify
15 you of further actions including our final decision.
16 Individuals speaking today will be called to the
17 microphone in the order they signed in and as
18 provided for by our hearing protocol that was
19 distributed at the reception area. When making a
20 statement, please come forward to the microphone and
21 state your name and the interest you represent. If
22 you speak as an individual, please say so. As there
23 are many who wish to provide comment, you are
24 provided two minutes to speak. Again, oral and
25 written statements will receive equal consideration

1 in making our decision.

2 We will now receive your comments according
3 to our hearing protocol. I'd like to represent first
4 Carlene Tremblay representing Senator Susan Collins'
5 office in Maine and Mr. Ben Tucker representing
6 Senator Angus King's office of Maine. I'd like to
7 call to make a comment Daniel Jenkins from
8 Congressman Jared Golden's office, please.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
10 Dan Jenkins and I am Congress Golden's District
11 Representative for Oxford, Franklin and Somerset
12 Counties. Unfortunately, the Congressman's official
13 duties in Washington D.C. have prevented him from
14 joining us tonight in-person, but he's asked that I
15 read a brief statement about the hearing and his
16 request for it to be held here in Maine.

17 The Congressman says: Thank you for the
18 opportunity to open up this public hearing with the
19 Army Corps of Engineers. I am sorry I couldn't join
20 all of you in-person today. Unfortunately, votes in
21 Congress are keeping me in Washington.

22 I called for this hearing in October because
23 I want to see greater transparency and opportunities
24 for public input in the permitting process for the
25 CMP corridor. Constituents from across Western Maine

1 have told me they felt that their voices haven't been
2 fully heard. So first, I'd like to thank all of the
3 folks that took the time out of their busy lives to
4 make the trip; in some cases, a long trip to Lewiston
5 to make sure that their voices are heard. This
6 transmission line could have significant impacts on
7 communities and the environment in Western Maine. It
8 is absolutely essential that Mainers have their say.

9 I'd also like to thank Colonel Conde and the
10 Army Corps of Engineers for agreeing to my request
11 that they put this hearing together. As I said in my
12 letter to this agency back -- to the agency back in
13 October, it would be harmful for our government
14 regulators to move forward without taking part in a
15 meaningful process with the citizens it serves. I
16 applaud the agency for demonstrating today's
17 commitment to transparency and accountability. No
18 matter how you feel about CMP and the NECEC project,
19 I hope you find this hearing to be valuable and
20 productive. Respectfully, Congressman Jared Golden.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. GOSSELIN: Next, I'd like to call a
23 representative from Federal Tribes, please. So would
24 Dawn Neptune please come up? And then next if you'd
25 like to go to the other microphone or wait behind

1 would be John Gonzalez and Heidi Vierthaler.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Kkweyy N'delweezy Dawn
3 Neptune Adams. Niyan bunawubskaiwi. Hello. My
4 concern about the corridor is for the water. I know
5 a Mi'kmaq man up in the northern part of what is now
6 called Maine. He says that his traditional hunting
7 ground has -- he says that his traditional hunting
8 grounds up there in the northern part of Wabanakeag
9 has an energy corridor where the animals don't go
10 anymore. There are no bugs, there no birds, no deer
11 and he says it's because of the herbicides that are
12 sprayed to keep the vegetation from growing in the
13 corridor. Now, as we all know, water does not
14 respect any boundaries, does not respect any manmade
15 borders. Whatever is done to our water it spreads.
16 It affects all of our water, it's all related and
17 connected. So if people are taking this herbicide
18 threat into account it is very serious.

19 I'd also like to say that this doesn't
20 benefit the people of Maine. According to something
21 I read, the people of Maine would only be getting
22 about 38 cents per month while CMP will make 60
23 million in profit per year and Hydro-Quebec will make
24 10 billion in revenues over the course of 20 years.
25 That's a quote I took from Tom Saviello from the Sun

1 Journal in March 17 in 2019.

2 When the means of production are in the
3 hands of the people, the people can make decisions
4 about what is best in their own communities. The
5 people can decide if they want to be responsible for
6 genocide that is happening to the indigenous people
7 to the north of us when their territories are flooded
8 to create this power.

9 MS. GOSSELIN: I'm sorry, your two minutes
10 are up. If you'd like to submit the rest of your
11 written testimony, you may do so over with our court
12 reporter.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Dawn Neptune.) Kci
14 woliwoni. N'delnabamuk. All our relations.

15 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Mr. Gonzales.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Tanse. I am John Gonzalez
17 of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation. And these operations
18 have destroyed vast areas of our lands and waters
19 altering the flow of rivers that we have relied upon
20 for our hunting, fishing and trapping. The unnatural
21 fluctuation of our waters continues to erode our
22 lands making these waters unfit for human and animal
23 consumption and hazardous to navigate. These are the
24 resources which we are -- with which we have relied
25 upon for millennia to feed our people.

1 Since the 1970s, Canadian hydro dams have
2 caused methylmercury poisoning of our people, a
3 dangerous neurotoxin which finds its way into our
4 food sources. A Harvard study from 2016 documents
5 this toxicity and also reports that Hydro-Quebec's
6 massive Romaine 4 Dam, which is under construction,
7 will have some of the highest levels of methylmercury
8 poisoning.

9 A nation is sovereign insomuch as it can
10 feed its own people. How will we feed our people if
11 Hydro-Quebec continues to contribute to our cultural
12 genocide as described in the United Nations
13 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
14 undermining our rights to sovereignty and
15 self-determination.

16 Hydro-Quebec is a state-owned monopoly with
17 money and power that has been built from the lands
18 and waters of our aboriginal people. Now they use
19 this money and power against us while making empty
20 promises of jobs, clean energy, monetary compensation
21 and the eradication of impoverishment.

22 Continuing to destroy our land and water is
23 not worth the 1,200 megawatts of power that will come
24 over the NECEC transmission corridor in Boston.
25 These rivers are over 1,000 miles away from Boston.

1 When you build a transmission corridor from 14- --
2 I'm going to continue with the next paragraph.

3 Indigenous people did not cause this climate
4 crisis. Do not put the burden of solving the problem
5 you created on the backs of people that have suffered
6 527 years of near genocidal extinction, residential
7 schools, assimilation and forced sterilization. The
8 Provincial Crown Corporation, Hydro-Quebec and the
9 Canadian government have an obligation to truth and
10 reconciliation. These are the people
11 disproportionately impacted by the extreme energy
12 extraction that is happening across Canada. While
13 pushed as green renewable energy, these industrial
14 scale hydro developments are producing levels of
15 destruction akin to Canada's massive tar sands and
16 mining operations. Canadian hydropower consumes the
17 most land per megawatt of any type of energy.

18 We ask the Army Corps of Engineers to deny
19 this permit and to stop a corridor that will
20 perpetuate the cultural genocide of indigenous people
21 and environmental destruction of Canada and New
22 England. Thank you for your time.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I am Heidi Vierthaler

1 of Freeport. I am grateful for this opportunity to
2 speak for my Cree friends for whom this is a matter
3 of life or death.

4 My BA in Geography and Anthropology grew out
5 of my studies of Hydro-Quebec denying both rights and
6 judiciary obligations of consultation with our Cree
7 neighbors to our north in James Bay, which has led to
8 their genocide and ecological ethnic cleansing. I
9 met them in 1991. I've produced the Maine Earth Day
10 alert for James Bay, North America's Own Amazon in
11 198- -- 1993. So having to speak out again decades
12 later to stop this hurts.

13 To me, the spiritual reverence of
14 stewardship of their land, their garden, is so
15 important for the future of our fragile ecosystem and
16 lives deep in my heart.

17 I am appalled that none of the
18 decision-making entities are taking into
19 consideration the Cree human rights issues,
20 greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts
21 especially in James Bay. This needs to change.
22 Hydro-Quebec megadams have devastated James Bay with
23 mercury poisoning and the economic disaster of forest
24 transition from sustenance to a consumer-oriented
25 economy and resulting suicide.

1 Seeking a wise alternative, how can we find
2 an alternative source of revenue so that all parties
3 involved can prosper so that we can spare our
4 pristine Maine wilderness and any further devastation
5 of our Cree neighbors? We can look to Archbishop
6 Desmond Tutu's model of negotiation for finding this
7 wise alternative. Let's learn from the Cree why we
8 should reject the NECEC corridor. How can we trust
9 Hydro-Quebec if Hydro-Quebec, Quebec and Canada have
10 not honored their treaties, et cetera, with the Cree?
11 How can we trust that Hydro-Quebec will honor the
12 agreements that they have made with all of us in
13 Maine --

14 MS. GOSSELIN: Excuse me.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Heidi Vierthaler.) --
16 when they haven't begun to honor those that they have
17 already made with our own Cree citizens? I hope
18 that --

19 MS. GOSSELIN: Excuse me, your two minutes
20 are up.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Heidi Vierthaler.) I
22 hope that you will keep the Cree in your heart as you
23 cast your votes. Their lives are in your hands.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. I apologize about

1 that. We deviated from the hearing protocol. I'd
2 like to call up next representatives of the state
3 agencies, so I would like to call up Rhiannon Hampson
4 with Representative Pingree's office, please.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I was not asking to speak.

6 MS. GOSSELIN: I'm sorry.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's okay.

8 MS. GOSSELIN: Well, then we thank you for
9 being here.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thanks so much.

11 MS. GOSSELIN: Next, we would like Everett
12 Carson, please. And then after Mr. Carson I'd like
13 to call up Lincoln Jeffers and after that Edward
14 Barrett, please.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
16 Brownie Carson. I have the privilege of serving as a
17 State Senator for Brunswick, Harpswell, Freeport,
18 North Yarmouth and Pownal and also as Co-Chair of the
19 Legislature's Environment and Natural Resources
20 Committee. I want to thank the Army Corps for
21 holding this public hearing.

22 My message this evening is simple. Central
23 Maine Powers' proposed energy corridor is one of the
24 most controversial and potentially destructive
25 projects that I have seen in the past 40 years. If

1 ever there was a project that deserved the scrutiny
2 and analysis that comes with a full Environmental
3 Impact Statement, this is it.

4 Maine people have strong concerns about this
5 project. First, because of its impact on Maine's
6 landscape, its waters, particularly the forested
7 areas of Franklin and Somerset Counties which would
8 be cut to make way for a 53 mile corridor. Also, the
9 brook trout, you'll hear more about that later.
10 Second, we question whether the project would
11 actually result in meaningful reductions in
12 greenhouse gas emissions for the region as CMP's
13 advertising campaign claims. There are many reasons
14 to doubt these promises.

15 Earlier this year, the Legislature attempted
16 to pass a bill that required an independent
17 assessment of the project's greenhouse gas impacts
18 across the entire area served by Hydro-Quebec. I
19 sponsored that bill, which received strong bipartisan
20 support, but it was defeated when it missed achieving
21 a 2/3 vote of support in the Maine House. CMP and
22 its lobbyists were determined to stop critical
23 information from coming to light. Because of CMP's
24 obstruction we don't have the independent analysis
25 that we need to evaluate the company's lofty

1 promises.

2 Because of how the corridor would negatively
3 affect our wetlands, rivers, streams and forests in
4 Western Maine this project should be rejected by
5 state and federal agencies. I am particularly
6 concerned about the corridor's negative impacts on
7 critical brook trout, but I want to say in closing at
8 a minimum, we need a full Environmental Impact
9 Statement to look at alternatives and to look at the
10 very real harm --

11 (Applause.)

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Everett "Brownie"
13 Carson.) -- that this project could and I believe
14 would cause. Thank you very much.

15 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Mr. Jeffers and
16 after Mr. Jeffers is Edward Barrett and Elizabeth
17 Caruso would like to line up, please.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is
19 Lincoln Jeffers. I am the Director of Economic and
20 Community Development for the City of Lewiston, but
21 more importantly, I am a citizen of this earth, which
22 is under significant threat from unchecked greenhouse
23 gas emissions.

24 I'm sure you're going to hear lots of things
25 opponents are going to state, I'm going to try to

1 summarize them, but we talk about 53 miles of
2 wilderness, the corridor is going to pass through.
3 Let's be honest about it, that is a working forest.
4 It has habitat and environmental values of that area
5 change on a daily basis. The volume of trees that
6 are going to be cut in the corridor is less than 1
7 percent of the volume of trees that are cut annually
8 in Maine. The negative environmental impacts in this
9 corridor are negligible compared to what is cut
10 annually and turned into paper, dimensional lumber or
11 biomass. The benefit of that is rather than being
12 burned and released into the atmosphere or turned
13 into paper having other pollutants going into the
14 environment this will create a corridor that will
15 allow the transmission of clean, renewable
16 hydropower.

17 There has been much made about they're
18 taking energy that's currently being sold to New York
19 and Ontario. The truth is that's inaccurate.
20 Hydro-Quebec is spilling and releasing more water
21 from their dams currently than what it would take to
22 feed this entire project. They have enough storage
23 capacity behind their dams to supply all of New
24 England and not just the New England -- not just New
25 England Clean Energy Connect. They have enough water

1 behind their dams to supply all of New England even
2 if it doesn't rain or snow for a year. There is a
3 lot of surplus capacity that is currently untapped.

4 There has been talk about greenhouse gas
5 emissions. I'm looking and I've got 15 seconds.
6 Bottom line is the studies that have been done,
7 opponents are saying, look, once you bury those trees
8 they still off gas. Those studies are looking in
9 Brazil. You look in Canada, it's cold water, it's
10 well oxygenated water, they do not deteriorate at the
11 same level. After the first couple of years it's
12 much better.

13 I'll wrap really quickly. We need wind,
14 solar and hydro. We need all three of them. This is
15 not a matter of one or the other. We need to do all
16 of them and the next time that a solar project or a
17 wind project needs to get the power, how are we going
18 to get it there? We need a transmission corridor.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Ed Barrett.
22 I'm the City Administrator in the City of Lewiston
23 and I'm here to speak on behalf of the city and our
24 city council that unanimously passed a resolution in
25 support of this project.

1 One of the main beneficiaries of this
2 project will be the City of Lewiston due to a \$250
3 million converter station planned for our community.
4 That will add 10 percent to our tax base, that single
5 project. One of the things you need to understand
6 about Lewiston is that we're an economically
7 challenged community. We have a relatively low per
8 capita income, we have 20 something percent poverty
9 rate, we have 2/3 of the students in our schools who
10 are economically challenged and this will give us an
11 additional \$6 million in property taxes a year to
12 help us address the needs of our community and
13 hopefully reduce or lower the property taxes on our
14 citizens, which are currently 57 percent higher than
15 the statewide average, so we are a high taxed
16 community. At the same time, we have a lot of needs
17 because of our economic situation.

18 In addition, this project will also help, I
19 think, all of us, including the city, by bringing
20 additional energy into New England. As the supply of
21 energy increases, I think we all know the law of
22 supply and demand. The price of that energy should
23 go down. It's all going into the New England energy
24 pool. And our electric bill for the City of Lewiston
25 alone last year was \$1.4 million, so any savings

1 there would also be helpful.

2 A couple of other brief things I'd like to
3 mention. Maine Public Utilities Corporation did an
4 extensive review of this project and concluded it
5 would reduce carbon emissions by over 3 million
6 metric tons per year. That can have a significant
7 effect on addressing the carbon problem we have that
8 everyone is facing and the environmental crisis that
9 we're trying to deal with.

10 So basically we urge you to move forward
11 with an Environmental Assessment of this project and
12 to go forward and quickly try to act and bring this
13 project to reality. Thank you.

14 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Liz Caruso.
16 I'm the First Selectman of the Town of Caratunk and
17 intervenor in the three Maine proceedings.

18 Caratunk was the first of now 26 towns to
19 oppose this project because of the harm that this
20 industrial infrastructure will have on our
21 wilderness, fisheries and wildlife, public safety,
22 property values and especially our four season
23 outdoor recreation tourism economy of snowmobiling,
24 fishing, rafting, hiking, sightseeing and hunting,
25 all of which lure tourists away from their

1 industrialized homes to Maine's wilderness landscape.
2 Opposition to the project has been unprecedented with
3 a record number of public comments, multiple public
4 hearings and a variety of citizen intervenors.

5 Under oath CMP confessed that regarding the
6 new 53 miles of corridor they failed to study or even
7 consider burying the lines, a standard practice to
8 minimize scenic and environmental impacts as the New
9 Hampshire and Vermont proposals did. They also
10 failed to study current usages of our wilderness
11 tourism hub, which they labeled a working forest,
12 also the economic impacts in the corridor or the lack
13 of fire resources in this forested area to keep us
14 from California situations.

15 The PUC examiner's report repeatedly
16 affirmed CMP's, quote, community outreach barrier,
17 end quote, deceiving and not mitigating with the host
18 communities and laying out the corridor without doing
19 the necessary studies and alternative analysis to
20 avoid or quantify adverse impacts, specifically they
21 listed recreational values, tourism and economy. The
22 record is full of evidence the NECEC is not in the
23 public's interest and there is certainly no need in
24 Maine for this damage to our lands, fisheries and
25 wildlife, our people, our tourism attraction or

1 overall economy.

2 Just as you did in Vermont and New
3 Hampshire, the Town of Caratunk formally requests an
4 EIS be conducted to protect the native fisheries,
5 local recreation and tourism economy, public safety
6 and overall public welfare from the permanent ruin of
7 our last contemporate -- contiguous forest, also
8 known as our wilderness tourism hub. The record has
9 shown the NECEC does not meet a public need, does not
10 reduce global greenhouse gas, does unnecessary and
11 permanent damage to the wildlife and fishery
12 habitats.

13 For a state that is divided on many things,
14 the majority of Mainers are united in protecting our
15 state from CMP's poorly planned above-ground
16 corridor. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. And in the -- to
19 be aware of time, please, if I could ask that you
20 hold the applause.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

23 (Laughter.)

24 MS. GOSSELIN: All right. Next, we're going
25 to go with the folks that registered in the order

1 that you registered and I'm going to, again, in the
2 interest of time call up three to four people at a
3 time, so if you could line up behind each microphone
4 as I call your name. So first, we'll have Hans
5 Carlson speak followed by Ron Joseph followed by
6 Jennifer Gray and finally Bradford Hagar.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for the
8 opportunity to speak. And thank you Representative
9 Golden for pushing to have this public hearing and to
10 the Corps for providing this opportunity. A very
11 important opportunity.

12 My name is Hans Carlson. I'm the Executive
13 Director of Blue Hill Heritage Trust, a conservation
14 organization in the eastern part of the state.
15 Tonight, I am here as a private citizen to share my
16 thoughts about what I find to be a very troubling
17 project hoping to stop it.

18 I have a 40 year history with the people and
19 the land of eastern James Bay and Northern Quebec,
20 the place where a large portion of Quebec's
21 electricity is generated, a source of much of the
22 power that would be transported for this project if
23 it's built. I have written books and articles about
24 this and I felt strongly enough about this to drive
25 three hours tonight to come and speak.

1 I have witnessed firsthand the cultural and
2 environmental impacts of hydro development to the
3 north, both with dams and the power lines, and I am
4 here to assure you that Quebec's hydropower is
5 neither green nor clean. Massive environmental
6 impacts were part of creating this power and you
7 cannot balance that with the imaginary renewable
8 greenness of hydroelectricity. You can't say that
9 this corridor is part of creating renewable energy in
10 New England in the northeast. The facts just don't
11 support it. Maine is being asked to sacrifice
12 probably the most important unbroken forest block in
13 the eastern United States and for only one reason,
14 for the profits of corporations on both sides of the
15 border and particularly for the profits for the
16 Province of Quebec.

17 I'm going to skip -- you've heard a great
18 deal of the other things that I was going to say.
19 One thing we need to understand about the power in
20 this corridor, it runs in both directions. There is
21 a power pool, there is a power market in the
22 northeast and Quebec has a tremendous advantage in
23 this because they operate hydroelectric power that
24 can be turned off and turned on. So when we are
25 generating power down here as we always do in surplus

1 they shut down and they buy and when we come home and
2 turn on the stove and crank up the air conditioner
3 the price of power jumps and so do our northern
4 neighbors. They buy -- or they sell, rather, and the
5 difference between high and low prices even though
6 they only sell about 17 percent of their power across
7 the border adds up to, as you've heard, a half
8 billion dollars a year. Cheap power isn't coming
9 here because of this project.

10 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Hans Carlson.) Only
12 environmental damage. I'm sorry I went over.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. GOSSELIN: And, I'm sorry, Mr. Hagar, if
15 I can have -- we -- we missed someone important. We
16 have a selectman from Wilton, Tom Saviello.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Tom Saviello.) Thank
18 you. I didn't know I was important, but.

19 (Laughter.)

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Tom Saviello.) Thank you
21 for hosting this public hearing and I want to
22 publicly thank Congressman Goldman and Senator
23 Collins for sending their letters requesting that
24 this hearing take place for transparencies for the
25 public. I have quite a few comments, but I'm going

1 to cut them down and I'll hand them in as written
2 ones.

3 The total economic impact, which I believe
4 people should understand, if you look at the London
5 Institute report it says over the life of the project
6 if you do the math it amounts to \$1.49 per Mainer per
7 month for 40 years while Central Maine Power makes \$5
8 million in profit per month. This project also will
9 result in the shutdown of our biomass industry, which
10 is 148 jobs directly lost. The CMP project when
11 completed will generate 38 full-time jobs. My simple
12 math says this is a bad deal, Maine is a loser, the
13 people who live here are the loser.

14 Central Maine Power touts the greenhouse gas
15 reduction. I am sure there will be people that talk
16 in great detail about this later on. You will see
17 though this is disingenuous because Massachusetts
18 passed a law increasing the renewable energy goals,
19 so it makes no difference where this power comes from
20 whether it comes from Maine -- through Maine, through
21 Vermont, through Massachusetts or through East
22 Timbuktu. The alternative analysis and the report
23 given to the Corps on July 1 is totally inadequate.
24 Cost doesn't factor into it, but as has been
25 described before the alternative analysis was not

1 complete.

2 And let me say that Senator Collins and
3 Congressman Golden both asked certain questions in
4 their letters to the Corps. I hope that you'll
5 answer them and obviously today you'll get back to us
6 on those things. So finally, when you're deciding,
7 which I do believe we need an Environmental Impact
8 Statement, you have to decide whether crossing 263
9 wetlands, crossing 150 trout streams -- 115, 12
10 wading bird habitats and generating a 2,000 acre
11 clearcut that will never grow back for 40 years,
12 that's a huge difference than an operating forest, so
13 that Maine can get \$17 per year for 40 years while
14 Central Maine Power makes 60 million. So we get to
15 buy a whoopie pie once a month. I think it's time
16 that we get to do an Environmental Impact Statement.
17 Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. GOSSELIN: Next, please.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Ron Joseph.) I'll let
21 Jen go.

22 MS. GOSSELIN: Okay. Yes, it was Ron
23 Joseph, Jennifer Gray and Bradford Hagar.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you, Ron. Hi. Good
25 afternoon. My name is Jennifer Gray. I'm from

1 Brunswick and my friend George Smith of Mount Vernon
2 asked me to read his testimony as he could not be
3 here present himself.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you speak up?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Jennifer Gray.) Sure.
6 Central Maine Power's plan to bring power through
7 Maine from Quebec and deliver it to Massachusetts
8 would be an environmental disaster. I have written
9 three newspaper columns expressing my opposition to
10 allowing CMP to devastate Western Maine, a place
11 where I've done quite a bit hunting and fishing and
12 appreciated the beautiful forests, lakes, streams,
13 mountains, sporting camps and small towns full of
14 friendly people.

15 Lots of people joined my wife, Linda, and
16 me, including tourists, to drive through that area in
17 October enjoying the mountain, lakes and stunning
18 colors of the forest. And, trust me, those views
19 will never be the same if CMP plows its way through
20 those beautiful forests and over those wonderful
21 mountains. I've also seen the devastation that
22 Hydro-Quebec supposedly green dams and impoundments
23 has caused in Canada, including on Tribal lands.
24 Maine should not reward Hydro-Quebec for this
25 destruction by sending it even more money.

1 We all know and appreciate what makes Maine
2 such a special place and over the years we have done
3 a lot to preserve and protect the very best of Maine.
4 I have always been proud of the work I did to help
5 create the Land for Maine's Future Fund, which has
6 been used very effectively to protect for all times
7 some of our very special places, some of which like
8 the Cold Stream Forest would be harmed by the CMP
9 project.

10 What do we love about Maine? For me, it's
11 the woods, brooks, streams, ponds, lakes, hills and
12 mountains, rural Maine towns, fish and wildlife,
13 native brook trout to deer, moose and bears. And,
14 yes, I love the coast as well, particularly Down East
15 in Lubec and Cutler where much of the oceanside is
16 undeveloped and available for hiking and enjoyment by
17 anyone. And please note, it's the undeveloped land
18 and woods and the wonderful habitat for fish and
19 wildlife that I think are our most valuable assets.

20 Why would we want to allow CMP to wreck its
21 way through some of our finest woods and waters,
22 hills and mountains, and rural towns, displacing
23 everything from moose to brook trout and ruining
24 Maine, the way life should be?

25 CMP's biggest false promise is that this

1 project would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Thank
2 you so much.

3 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. You may provide
4 if you have more to the stenographer. It's the same
5 weight as a verbal comment. Next, please. Again, I
6 apologize.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. Good evening. My
8 name is Ron Joseph. I'm here as an individual. Born
9 and raised in Central Maine, I've worked as a
10 wildlife biologist in Maine since 1978. As a former
11 regional wildlife biologist for the Maine Department
12 of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in Greenville most
13 of the 53 mile proposed transmission corridor from
14 Quebec to The Forks bisects the region I worked in
15 and know very well.

16 This segment of the project, nearly a 300
17 feet wide corridor, in the heart of the Maine woods
18 would seriously threaten one of the largest remaining
19 intact temperate forests in North America. As an
20 expert witness during the week long DEP hearings in
21 April, I testified on the significant environmental
22 damages that would result if this project is built.
23 Given that the transmission line corridor would
24 directly and indirectly impact hundreds of acres of
25 wetlands essential to declining fish and wildlife

1 resources, including Canada Lynx, I implore the Corps
2 of Engineers to require CMP to fully explain why it
3 ruled out other less environmentally damaging
4 alternatives. Thus far, CMP has merely provided lip
5 service to these alternatives.

6 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act,
7 developed by EPA and the Corps of Engineers,
8 established that substantive environmental criteria
9 must be met for activities to be permitted. The Act
10 and the White House Council on Environmental Quality
11 requires that the permit applicants demonstrate; one,
12 avoidance of wetlands; two, minimization of wetland
13 impacts; three, mitigation of wetland impacts. CMP
14 has rushed to endorse its preferred alternative while
15 skipping the wetland avoidance and mitigation steps
16 required by the Clean Water Act and NEAP.

17 Why, for example, can't the 53 mile corridor
18 from Quebec to The Forks be rerouted where there is
19 already existing disturbances in the forest?

20 Until CMP's application addresses wetland
21 avoidance and minimization, it's premature for the
22 Corps and the state to issue permits. CMP's
23 incomplete application fails to meet the water
24 requirements, which states a permit may be issued
25 for -- only issued for the least environmentally

1 practicable alternative. Therefore, I encourage the
2 Corps to deny this permit application.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
6 Brad Hagar. I'm a Professor of Earth Sciences at the
7 Massachusetts Institute of Technology where I also
8 co-direct one of MIT's low carbon energy centers. I
9 split my residency between Massachusetts and our home
10 in Mercer, Maine.

11 I appreciate this chance to put on record,
12 and I have given the written statement, the
13 surprisingly large published estimates of the
14 negative climate impact of Hydro-Quebec's energy.
15 Studies published recently in the peer reviewed
16 scientific literature document the greenhouse gas
17 emissions of approximately 1,500 reservoirs, hydro
18 reservoirs worldwide, including many of these
19 providing power to Hydro-Quebec. These studies show
20 that there is an extremely wide range of greenhouse
21 gas emissions from hydro, but six of Hydro-Quebec's
22 reservoirs are among the top 25 percent of greenhouse
23 gas emitters of hydro plants worldwide. With their
24 emissions ranging from about that of a modern natural
25 gas combines several plants to over twice that of

1 coal fired power plants. They are definitively not
2 the source of green power that they are made out to
3 be.

4 Why are Hydro-Quebec's reservoirs so dirty?
5 Well, their reservoirs are nothing like the clean
6 reservoirs say of Switzerland that we think about
7 that dam narrow valleys -- steep, narrow valleys
8 above tree line whereas the Hydro-Quebec's reservoirs
9 flood vast tracts of low-lying woodlands resulting in
10 deforestation which is akin to that we see in the
11 alarming images we see of burning of the Amazon.

12 Given the fact that Hydro-Quebec's high
13 greenhouse gas emissions are documented in the peer
14 reviewed literature, it would seem dereliction of
15 duty to allow NECEC to proceed without serious and
16 formal federal review. And NECEC's negative impacts
17 on the climate must be considered in the permitting
18 process.

19 In my -- in my testimony, I have included a
20 bar graph here, which I don't have time to go into in
21 detail, but I would just point out that off the top
22 of the chart here is the emissions from
23 Hydro-Quebec's Caniapiscau reservoir.

24 So in summary, the carbon footprints of
25 Hydro-Quebec's power as documented in peer review

1 literature make it one of the dirtiest hydro in the
2 world. And I know your mission is rivers, but
3 relevant to that climate change is already affecting
4 the water cycle which endangers U.S. rivers.

5 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And published available
7 science suggests that the carbon emissions driving
8 climate change would be increased not decreased by
9 Hydro-Quebec.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next up I'd like
12 to call Chloe Rowse, Robert Rowse, Paul Okerholm and
13 Julian Felvinci.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Chloe Rowse.) Hi. I am
15 young -- I am young, active in the outdoors and
16 environmentally conscious. I believe our economic
17 future depends on our ability to draw more young
18 people like me to live, work and start businesses
19 here in Maine. Population growth and the
20 attractiveness of Maine depends on how well we
21 protect and promote what defines us. Our environment
22 and the unique natural beauty of Maine, our tourism
23 industry depends on it and as our Governor says, the
24 health of every Mainer depends on it.

25 I was born and raised in Maine. My sisters

1 and I grew swimming and hiking in the mountains and
2 lakes of Western Maine. We developed an appreciation
3 for clean water, mountaintops and the peaceful,
4 pristine, serenity unique to our state. I think we
5 took this for granted, probably a lot of us do. Then
6 last year, I through-hiked the entire Appalachian
7 Trail. I walked 2,200 miles alone through 14 states
8 from Georgia to Maine. My journey was incredible,
9 but I saw firsthand the impacts of power transmission
10 lines. I walked under them and heard the buzz of
11 high voltage. The line cut through the landscape and
12 mountain ranges ahead. I saw how they disrupted
13 wildlife habitats and scenic character. It was a
14 complete contrast to the wild, pure and awe inspiring
15 outdoors I had grown up with in Maine.

16 My name is Chloe Rowse. I am an
17 environmentalist, a registered Maine Guide and am the
18 director of a small Maine-based non-profit. My
19 career and my life are routed in the health of the
20 Maine outdoors. After almost four months of hiking
21 alone through 13 states I joyfully entered Maine. It
22 was amazing to me how different it felt. Almost all
23 through-hikers on the Appalachian Trail tell you the
24 you same thing, Maine has a rugged untouched beauty
25 that you don't see anywhere else, not even in the

1 White Mountains of New Hampshire. Maine's wilderness
2 is unusual. This high voltage power line is proposed
3 to cross the Appalachian Trail in Maine three times.

4 I live and work here because I love Maine.
5 No amount of money can save that. Why does it feel
6 like we're being bought? When I ask what Maine gets
7 out of this is money, would you give up what defines
8 you, your values, your family, what you believe in
9 for money? In an aging state the outdoors is one of
10 our greatest assets to help bring young people and
11 businesses to Maine. It is in the public interest to
12 protect this sacred resource.

13 As I said, I am an environmentalist. I know
14 we need to take action to reduce the creation of
15 greenhouse gases that aggravate climate, but this not
16 the solution.

17 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Chloe Rowse.) We can do
19 so much better. Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a tough act to
23 follow. I am just from West Gardiner, Paul Okerholm.
24 I'm just sitting here to look at this not so
25 technically, but the major question I have is why are

1 we doing it in Maine at all? If you look at Vermont,
2 for example, they had a proposal to do it right.
3 They were going to do it under -- under the Lake
4 Champlain, I believe, and part of it and follow
5 existing highways. The people of Vermont support it.
6 Perhaps it's more expensive, but that's not our
7 problem.

8 And also the purpose of this is to deliver
9 energy to Massachusetts. Now, years ago, I remember
10 there was a project in Massachusetts that got shot
11 down because it affected their view. It was an
12 off-shore wind project. Apparently they respect
13 their view but not our forest. I mean, I'm more
14 interested in our forest. And I guess that's
15 probably it except that the people of Maine have
16 spoken very loudly. Virtually every town at is being
17 affected by this has voted like 100 to 3, you know,
18 it's not like 60/40 or anything. It's an
19 overwhelming statewide 74 percent of people oppose
20 it. I don't see why we have to consider this going
21 in Maine at all. Not to decline anything to
22 Massachusetts, but we don't have to deliver it
23 through Maine. That's all.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I have serious
2 questions and concerns about the environmental
3 impact --

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

6 MS. GOSSELIN: I have the opposite problem.

7 (Laughter.)

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have serious questions
9 and concerns about the environmental impact of this
10 project which would clear a football field wide swath
11 through 145 miles of pristine wilderness in Western
12 Maine creating dramatic change to the landscape of
13 our state, disrupting deer wintering areas and
14 streams and other important habitats with no apparent
15 commitment to any serious environmental mitigation.
16 Actually, those are the words of Janet Mills before
17 she was elected as our Governor.

18 (Applause.)

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: At the time, she was still
20 opposed to this project.

21 Like the Governor, I have serious questions
22 and concerns about the project. Why if the goal is
23 for -- to encourage Massachusetts to get more of its
24 energy from renewables is no renewable energy
25 infrastructure being built other than transmission

1 lines? We are not building new power creation
2 plants. Why didn't Massachusetts choose any of the
3 other 40 plus projects that offered thousands of
4 megawatts of new wind and solar projects in new
5 England? Why did New Hampshire oppose a similar
6 attempt to bring this energy through New Hampshire.
7 That's particularly interesting, in fact. According
8 to the Sierra Club the Northern Pass project, as it
9 was called in New Hampshire, would have increased
10 electricity costs in the state, destroyed pristine
11 wilderness in New Hampshire and continued the
12 destruction of traditional hunting and fishing
13 grounds of First Nations in Quebec all while failing
14 to reduce climate pollution in the region.

15 Lastly, why did CMP make a \$250,000
16 charitable donation to the Western Mountains and
17 Rivers Corporation? According to Peter Mills, board
18 member and brother of Janet Mills, the purpose of
19 this corporation is to negotiate with CMP and
20 possibly Hydro-Quebec to see if -- see that they
21 would put together terms to mitigate in a public and
22 charitable way to mitigate for the impact of the
23 power line if it were built.

24 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. GOSSELIN: I'd like to call up the next
3 four while we -- Paul Cunningham, Edward Buzzell,
4 Peter Vigue and Alex Pakulski. Go ahead, sir.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, okay. My name is Bob
6 Rowse and I live here in Lewiston. I heard from the
7 city of representatives at Lewiston that this might
8 be the cure for all of our problems. I have serious
9 doubts about that. We've had historic problems and
10 we are going to have to solve them, but I don't think
11 this is a good way to do it.

12 The other thing I want to say is these
13 things have a way of coming back over and over. We
14 may stop it this time, but it will come back. So the
15 only way to permanently stop this thing is not
16 testimony to any group, it's your right to vote. And
17 we need it and I urge you to sign the petition that
18 gives you the right to vote to say no.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. GOSSELIN: Correct.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Julian Felvinci
22 and I live in Saco, Maine. I am the Strategic
23 Communication Research Assistant with North American
24 Megadam Resistance Alliance. NAMRA is an
25 international alliance dedicated to protecting rivers

1 and their communities.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you slow down and
3 speak up, please?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Julian Felvinci.) Yup.
5 NAMRA joins with the others in asking the Army Corps
6 of Engineers to prepare an Environmental Impact
7 Statement and deny the Clean Water Act permit for New
8 England Clean Energy Connect. When similar projects
9 were proposed in New Hampshire and Vermont and EIS
10 was performed and Maine should get this same
11 consideration.

12 NAMRA thanks Representative Golden for
13 asking for this hearing. When doing so,
14 Representative Golden cited the lack of transparency
15 and accountability in the NECEC approval process.
16 This lack of transparency is very concerning to NAMRA
17 for two reasons; first, because there has been no
18 consideration on the impacts of Hydro-Quebec's
19 operations on the environment and communities in
20 Canada where this power is coming from, and second,
21 there is no accounting for the greenhouse gas impacts
22 of the project.

23 Hydro-Quebec's massive, cumulative
24 destruction of rivers, forests, wetlands, peatlands
25 and communities in Canada have been entirely ignored

1 in the regulatory process for NECEC. Hydro-Quebec
2 has 60 hydro facilities, 27 major reservoirs and dams
3 the height of the Eiffel Tower.

4 Just one of those, the La Grande 2 that came
5 online in 1972 drains 32,480 square miles of streams
6 and wetlands, an area almost the size of Maine.

7 In Labrador, Hydro-Quebec uses the Upper
8 Churchill Dam that impounds the Grand River by
9 draining 27,000 square miles of rivers, streams and
10 wetlands and has a reservoir the size of the Republic
11 of Ireland.

12 Hydro-Quebec has been exporting hydropower
13 to the US since 1900 and today it uses the same
14 destructive, dirty power production methods that it
15 used in 1900.

16 New England Clean Energy Connect cannot
17 deliver the climate benefits they claim. Recent
18 peer-reviewed science shows that large hydropower can
19 be as bad for the climate as fossil fuels.

20 Hydro-Quebec's dams and massive reservoirs emit
21 enormous amounts of carbon dioxide and methane.
22 There is no greenhouse gas accounting to show that
23 importing electricity from Hydro-Quebec will actually
24 lower emissions in Massachusetts. NAMRA's data shows
25 that NECEC will increase these emissions by 2

1 percent.

2 We are in a climate crisis and
3 Hydro-Quebec's operations have a significant negative
4 impact on society as a whole, the climate and the
5 environment. We need real climate solutions,
6 solutions that do not further cultural genocide and
7 further environmental destruction.

8 The Corps should undertake an Environmental
9 Impact Statement that covers all of these factors.
10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, thank you, Corps of
14 Engineers for being here and everyone. I especially
15 want to thank the indigenous folks for coming out and
16 I'm always amazed at their tenacity in the face of,
17 you know, constant harassment.

18 First of all, CMP, that -- that is a
19 misnomer. That's marketing. This is a
20 multi-national corporation called Iberdrola. We
21 should be aware of that.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder, please.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hopefully, you folks are
24 going to deny the permit that goes -- should go
25 without saying, but I want to make a couple things

1 very clear. You're going to hear proponents tonight
2 talk about the benefits of this project to Maine
3 people, but they have no obligation to Maine people.
4 Iberdrola has no responsibility for us. They only
5 have responsibility for their shareholders. They
6 only have responsibility to make profits every year
7 and you have to be absolutely clear on that. Profit
8 is their only consideration. You're going to hear
9 about the benefits to us, but it's salesmanship --
10 salespersonship, excuse me. That's all.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Ed Buzzell and
14 I'm from Moxie Gore, Maine and I am an intervenor
15 against the CMP transmission corridor along with a
16 group of local residents, business owners and
17 recreational users. My reason for my intervention as
18 a business owner and a person who has been involved
19 in all aspects of this unique, wild area for over 40
20 years. This corridor simply does not belong here.

21 The CMP corridor as proposed will wind 300
22 feet wide through scenic vistas and unique ecosystems
23 where a transmission corridor should not exist. They
24 have 100 foot steel towers rising well above the tree
25 canopy that would perversely and permanently scar

1 mountains, cross the Kennebec Gorge, coveted public
2 land, the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway,
3 Moxie Stream, the Appalachian Trail and Moxie Pond.
4 The list goes on. It will also fill in across 242
5 wetlands and priceless brook trout fisheries. These
6 valuable areas in Maine deserve a look at
7 alternatives to a transmission corridor that would
8 diminish them forever. Even though the Federal
9 Bureau of Environmental Protection has recommended
10 that CMP look at other alternatives for this
11 transmission corridor they are not even planning an
12 Environmental Impact Study. A study was required of
13 similar transmission proposals in New Hampshire and
14 Vermont and I demand to know what makes Maine less
15 valuable than these other states.

16 The CMP overhead route in Maine is a recipe
17 for disaster. It uses 1930s technology of overhead
18 lines that can be blown down in wind storms, they can
19 cause uncontrollable fires where no fire department
20 even exists. CMP has not looked at the modern
21 alternate technology such as underground routes
22 beside roadsides and using existing corridors. It
23 seems that Maine has become a victim of a
24 geopolitical scheme to rob Maine of some of its vital
25 natural resources for corporate profit only.

1 Certainly this is a bad deal for Maine and not in the
2 public's interest.

3 I would ask that the Army Corps of Engineers
4 to deny Central Maine Power the permits for this
5 terrible project. Thank you for listening.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. And the next
8 batch of four, please. Erin Simpson, Scott Benson,
9 Cary Blake and David Hyde, please.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Alex Pakuloski.
11 I live in Norridgewock, Maine. I'm a Master Maine
12 Guide and a retired optometrist now. And I'm here to
13 voice my opposition of this in terms of the brook
14 trout fisheries in danger when you cut through these
15 places. A small change in temperature in these small
16 brooks could devastate the brook trout fishery. It
17 doesn't take very much of a climate change on a 68
18 degree level to destroy these fish.

19 The other thing is when I was climbing my
20 goodbye hikes this summer to say goodbye to our old
21 Maine, I started meeting people on the mountains,
22 Number 5 Mountain, Coburn Mountain, Mosquito
23 Mountain, everybody there was sad. This is a tragedy
24 for the state if this happens. And it's nothing that
25 you can put in quantity. It's intangible. If you

1 hike the Appalachian Trail and talk to these
2 through-hikers they all say that Maine is the best
3 part of this hike.

4 So in conclusion, in 1940, CMP drowned the
5 down of Flagstaff for power and in '19 -- 2019
6 they're trying to Flagstaff us again. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is David
10 Hyde. I feel like a lone duck out here. I live in
11 Pownal and I come here today as an advocate for my
12 daughters, for their children and their children.

13 We're in a critical point that where we can
14 still address climate change and make a difference.
15 The no corridor opponents to this project -- the no
16 corridor opponents to the project will protect the
17 north woods at all costs. Even if it means
18 maintaining the same energy generation models, which
19 are nuclear, coal, oil and natural gas, which
20 ultimately is a boreal forest.

21 I know the north woods. For years, I lead
22 trips for cancer patients to places that would offer
23 beauty, serenity, community that can and does occur
24 at these less traveled places. Those places still
25 exist for the -- will still exist after the

1 transmission line is built.

2 We have millions of acres available for
3 recreation and much of it conserved land. The no
4 corridor opponents are not providing a realistic
5 answer for what alternative energy sources are
6 available. This project's impacts to wetland and
7 wildlife have been mitigated and compensated for.
8 The project represents a lot of energy that is more
9 desirable for its environmental impact and the
10 well-being of our habitat. I urge you to support the
11 Environmental Assessment and not the Impact
12 Statement. Continued stalling is one thing, but we
13 will leave a diminished or uninhabitable environment
14 for plants, animals and particularly for my children
15 and their children. I do not want my bequest to
16 be -- to them to be that I saw a problem and did
17 nothing. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. GOSSELIN: And let me just read the -- I
20 don't know if I wasn't heard. Erin Simpson, Scott
21 Benson, Cary Blake and David Hyde.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Cary
23 Blake. I live in Portland and I went to school and
24 work here in Lewiston. I am here tonight because I
25 have two young daughters, Christie and Clara, ages 1

1 and 4.

2 The opposition to this project should look
3 fast and hard at what's really going on in our
4 climate, our water, our air and our world, all which
5 deeply impact our children's future. They shouldn't
6 be working every angle to kill this project like
7 calling for an EIS rather than an EA. Rather, they
8 should embrace the idea that a cleaner energy future
9 with fewer fossil fuels is imperative for our youth.
10 A cleaner energy future is so important for my
11 daughters' future, for all our childrens' future.
12 It's the air they breathe and the environment they
13 live in. I support a cleaner energy future, but we
14 must act now. The time is now to wean ourselves off
15 fossil fuel energy generation that produces
16 incredible amounts of waste and pollutants causing
17 cancer and illnesses. We know this to be fact and we
18 already see the effects.

19 Honestly, I don't have time to be here
20 tonight. I should be at home with my little girls,
21 but I don't have the luxury of going home and not
22 being here, so I am here to advocate for the future
23 generation for all of our kids for a cleaner energy
24 future that includes renewable energy generation like
25 hydropower. So I ask you not to put up red flags and

1 cause more delays. I urge you to take the necessary
2 actions to get projects like this one across the
3 finish line and quickly. Thank you.

4 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next up we have
5 Richard Barringer, Christopher Ayres, John Nicholas
6 and Richard Aishton.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What was that first name
8 you called?

9 MS. GOSSELIN: Richard Barringer.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And I am Richard
11 Barringer.

12 MS. GOSSELIN: Oh, there you go. We have
13 the real Richard Barringer right here.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Richard Barringer.)
15 Thank you. I am at present a resident of Portland
16 and of Southport Island, Maine. I came to Maine 45
17 years ago to serve the best interest of the State of
18 Maine and four Maine governors as Director of Maine's
19 Public Lands, Commissioner of Conservation and
20 Director of State Planning. In my official capacity
21 I oversaw creations of the state's extraordinary
22 network of public reserve lands. A half million
23 acres that stretch all across Maine's unorganized
24 territory from the Mahoosuc to the Bigelow Preserve
25 to the Richardson Lakes, Little Moose Mountain, to

1 the vast stretches of Aroostook, Hancock and
2 Washington Counties and helped to negotiate with the
3 Great Northern Paper Company the public conservation
4 easement that exists today along the West Branch of
5 the Penobscot from Northeast Carry to Chesuncook
6 Lake.

7 Along the way, I also served on the boards
8 of directors of the Maine Audobon Society, the
9 Natural Resource Council of Maine, the Western
10 Mountains Alliance and the Allagash Wilderness
11 Waterway Foundation. I have hiked, biked, skied,
12 snowshoed and snowmobiled the mountains of this
13 region and paddled and fished all of its rivers and
14 streams and lakes.

15 I respect deeply and admire the corridor
16 detractors. At the same time, I am here today above
17 all because of my own grandchildren and the legacy we
18 shall leave them. 35 years ago in the early 1980s,
19 my son, Adam, did a junior high school science
20 project on the growing accumulation of greenhouse
21 gases in our atmosphere and the potential effects of
22 this on our lives here in Maine. Adam won a prize
23 for the project and was very proud of it. Today, 35
24 years later, then I learned for the first time the
25 grave challenge of climate change. Adam's children

1 now are in college and today the best recent research
2 tells us that the effects of climate change are
3 advancing even more rapidly and more destructively
4 than previously reported.

5 And I understand and appreciate the
6 difficulty of this choice before you, but I urge you
7 to do what is now right, necessary and timely to
8 proceed with an Environmental Assessment as
9 expeditiously as possible.

10 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Richard Barringer.) I
12 believe there is no time to waste. Thank you very
13 much.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank up.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Christopher
17 Ayres and I'm a Maine resident and a lifelong
18 outdoorsman and environmentalist having served on the
19 boards of the Natural Resources Council of Maine,
20 Friends of the Royal River and Maine Audobon Society.
21 I come here today out of a deep concern for what
22 climate change is doing to our environment.

23 Every day we hear more grim news about the
24 impacts to the Gulf of Maine. Like the canary in the
25 coal mine, changes throughout the ecological spectrum

1 are affecting all sea life and in turn coastal
2 communities and economies up and down the coast.
3 It's staring us in the face. Next will come the
4 irrefutable evidence of changes to the boreal forest
5 and the wildlife dependent upon it. Maine's forest
6 is predicted to resemble North Carolina's if we don't
7 make sudden reductions in carbon emissions.

8 That's where NECEC comes in. It's our one
9 chance in the next few years to reduce carbon
10 emissions by over 3 million metric tons. We cannot
11 the afford the wishful thinking approach to
12 mitigating climate change. The fact that we need
13 more solar, wind and better batteries does not mean
14 that this alone will solve our problems, far from it.
15 And clinging to that hope so that no hard choices
16 have to be made is preventing us as a society from
17 dealing with the real issues. Climate change is the
18 existential threat of our time. It will be the
19 greatest battle ever fought and as such demands we
20 bring our best science and clearest thinking or we
21 will lose.

22 The NECEC is not without impacts and neither
23 are battery storage, wind and solar energy options.
24 But for 1,200 megawatts of emission-free power the
25 impacts are quite manageable. The transmission line

1 is a very compatible land use alongside cut over
2 hillsides, logging roads and skidder trails. It's
3 still wonderful territory, but a 150 foot
4 transmission corridor in the midst of millions of
5 acres of working forests will not change the region.

6 For that reason, along with all of the small
7 impacts to wetlands and vernal pools, I see no need
8 for an EIS, that should be reserved for projects with
9 potential for significant environmental harm. NECEC
10 provides significant environmental benefits. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is John Nicholas.
14 I'm speaking for myself and my wife, Nancy. We own
15 land in Upper Enchanted Township, which will be about
16 2 miles from the proposed transmission corridor. And
17 I spend two months a year fly-fishing the remote
18 ponds in this area, so I'm very familiar with the
19 terrain.

20 We're opposed to the environmental -- the
21 transmission corridor because it will forever destroy
22 the visual beauty, environment, economy and character
23 of the Western Maine Mountains in order to benefit
24 Massachusetts, not the State of -- and not the State
25 of Maine, especially the impact on water quality that

1 will threaten Maine's native brook trout.

2 Undergrounding the transmission corridor as
3 an alternative to overhead lines should be required.
4 The claim by CMP that undergrounding the transmission
5 cables is too expensive and more environmentally
6 damaging than overhead lines is not consistent with
7 or supported by the facts. CMP chose overhead
8 transmission lines because that design was the
9 cheapest and most price competitive, not because it
10 was environmentally sound.

11 The transmission corridor must not be
12 allowed to traverse Coburn Mountain. Coburn Mountain
13 is the highest mountain in the Jackman, West Forks
14 and Forks area at 3,717 feet. Coburn Mountain is the
15 water source for Grace Pond, a native brook trout
16 fishery. Coburn Mountain also drains into Enchanted
17 Pond, a large native brook trout resource, Parlin
18 Pond, the Dead River and the Moose River. It is also
19 the water supply for approximately 40 families from
20 its extensive bedrock aquifers.

21 I think it's imperative that the U.S. Army
22 Corps of Engineers undertake an Environmental Impact
23 Study with public hearings because of the substantial
24 impact on water quality from this transmission
25 corridor. Now that concludes my testimony. Thank

1 you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next, I'd like to
4 call up Anne Burt, Carole Anshelles, Bruce Gagnon and
5 Jason Shedlock.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. Good evening. My
7 name is Richard Aishton. I'm from Farmington.
8 During the last 20 years I've worked for USAID, Ford
9 Foundation and IUCN in boreal and northern temperate
10 forests worldwide, including Russia, Canada, and the
11 United States, Scandinavia, and all of Eastern and
12 Central Europe. I hold a Ph.D. in environmental
13 dynamics where I've completed years of work in
14 quantifying the relationship between humans and their
15 natural resource base.

16 There is absolutely no doubt that the NECEC
17 will have a substantial negative environmental
18 impact. Moreover, who could possibly predict with
19 any accuracy the likely negative cumulative effects
20 of this project? How is it possible to make a fair
21 and unbiased decision regarding the permit request by
22 CMP without the benefit of the information from an
23 Environmental Impact Statement? It seems utterly
24 illogical that a project of this scale and magnitude
25 does not warrant a comprehensive EIS. Do you really

1 believe an environmental analysis is enough? I
2 certainly don't.

3 The environmental cost of the people of
4 Maine will be significant, yet CMP states over and
5 over again that Maine people do not bear any cost for
6 building this NECEC. How absolutely ridiculous and
7 intentionally deceptive is that statement?

8 263, I repeat, 263, the number of wetlands
9 affected by the 2,500 acre clearcut proposed by CMP.
10 I hope that I don't have to elaborate on the value of
11 the wetlands and their important role in ecosystem
12 dynamics. The number 10 ought to raise flags. 263
13 ought to make you ill. 115, the number of streams
14 crossed without any alternative routes proposed by
15 CMP.

16 Allowing the fragmentation of one of the
17 largest continuous forest tracts of land east of the
18 Mississippi without any qualitatively derived
19 information of the impact would simply be
20 unacceptable, don't you think?

21 Speaking of forest fires, what a wonderful
22 idea to have an above-ground HVDC line threading
23 their way through the huge forested region dotted
24 with small villages and larger settlements. Ever
25 wonder why the industry standards call for burying

1 them?

2 Finally, we come to climate change, the big
3 ticket item. I might just say that clearcutting 25
4 acres or 100 acres of land in perpetuity is a real
5 stellar response to climate change. And I do hope
6 the heavy drip of sarcasm does not go unnoticed.

7 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Richard Aishton.) I will
9 close with the following: How does the Army Corps
10 possibly approve a permit for this project without
11 demanding an EIS to provide concrete evidence of the
12 environmental cost along with reasonable
13 alternatives? Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Bruce
16 Gagnon. I live in Brunswick. I am a member of the
17 Maine Green Independent Party.

18 This project is already a disaster. Massive
19 destruction of indigenous lands around Quebec, we've
20 heard about that. People in Maine resoundingly
21 oppose this project today. Climate catastrophe is
22 haunting -- is haunting us and the future
23 generations. The impacts of this CMP project in
24 Maine will only accelerate this crisis. Do not allow
25 this project to go forward. It's not a clean energy

1 project. It's a corporate boondoggle. We need to
2 decentralize our energy.

3 As a Vietnam era veteran, I must say that
4 our government is continually killing people around
5 the world in order to spread democracy. I think it's
6 time we have some of that so-called democracy here.
7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm Anne Burt and
11 I live in Edgecomb. And I wanted to speak because
12 one of the best kept secrets here in Maine, I live
13 very near to it, and it's a project that went down
14 the Boothbay peninsula, grid solar. It saved Maine
15 ratepayers 1/3 the cost. CMP estimated \$18 million
16 to upgrade a transmission line to bring power to
17 Boothbay and using solar power, using storage,
18 changing light bulbs to LEDs, it cost 1/3, \$6
19 million. So when we're looking at another project, a
20 transmission project, which I call dinosaur
21 technology it is -- I -- when I heard about the
22 project I said why is it that towns in Massachusetts
23 aren't moving forward with smart grids with
24 technology and then I was thrilled to read that the
25 CEO of ISO New England our grid operator said going

1 forward we must have more opportunities to integrate
2 intermittent resources such as wind and solar when
3 coupled with energy storage technology. This to me
4 is the future. This transmission line is something
5 that dinosaurs would have built and it's time for us
6 to grab the future for our children and our
7 grandchildren.

8 And I -- the other thing I want to just say
9 is that I think it is unconscionable that we will
10 once again steal more land from our First Nations
11 people in order to make ourselves more comfortable,
12 so thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Carole Anshelles and I'm a resident of Farmington, Maine. I've also spent 20 years in D.C. working for a legislative committee and the EPA. I have been enjoying retirement until this issue came up and I'm now back reading government and corporate speak and writing and here I am to address you on the procedures that have been happening so far.

23 One of the biggest problems with this
24 project, I think, is the complete disjointedness of
25 it. Aspects of it have been coming forward, lurching

1 forward, taking back, changed, whatever. There have
2 been a number of people making misstatements, I'll be
3 charitable, about this project. We have countless
4 agencies at the state and federal level involved in
5 this and the basic problem is that the New England
6 Clean Energy Connect project is really a corporate
7 profit infrastructure effort in search of the
8 appearance of a legitimate environmental permit.

9 I'll get to the point with my
10 recommendations and I understand, I mean, people who
11 I have been volunteering with understand that I get
12 the environmental impact, the harm that's been done
13 to the indigenous communities, but you are the Army
14 Corps of Engineers, you are charged basically with
15 Section 404 and that's the way it is. I point out
16 that I don't think it's acceptable that the November
17 1 hearing notice required interested parties to
18 travel to Augusta or -- during normal business hours
19 or to purchase a transcript from the stenographer for
20 this public hearing. I think it's also not
21 acceptable that when one copies and pastes links from
22 your original hearing -- cited for the original
23 hearing the three embedded spaces in there result in
24 404 notices.

25 I want you to do a presentation of an

1 organized, comprehensive, complete proposal in
2 alternatives and make that available to people. I
3 understand you can only work with what you've been
4 given, but you need to pull that together clearly. I
5 want a professional Environmental Impact Statement as
6 was performed for similar projects in New Hampshire
7 and Vermont. I want a professional cost-benefit
8 analysis of the project --

9 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Carole Anshelles.) --
11 including the costs and benefits at various levels.

12 Finally, I'm sorry, I want to see what your
13 response was to the EPA Region 1's April 25 letter
14 raising serious concerns about the procedure and the
15 substantive aspects dealing with areas under your
16 control.

17 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Carole Anshelles.) Thank
19 you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. GOSSELIN: The next four people will be
22 Jill Stein, Benjamin Dudley, Carlton Wilcox and Lyn
23 Grotke.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
25 Jason Shedlock. I'm the Executive Director of the

1 Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council.
2 First of all, I want to thank Congressman Golden for
3 bringing this forth. Obviously, it's very necessary.
4 I also want to thank the Congressman for the letter
5 he sent today to CMP and Avangrid saying that a
6 project labor agreement must be in place if this
7 project goes forward.

8 I am going to take a slightly different
9 tact. Folks a whole lot smarter than I on the
10 environmental aspects will be speaking today.
11 They've already spoke. I am going to talk about the
12 benefits to Mainers if this project moves forward.
13 Right now, we have some promises from CMP that
14 Mainers are going to benefit -- Maine workers are
15 going to benefit. Without a project labor
16 agreement -- and what a project labor agreement is it
17 sets sidelines, the end zones and the goal posts for
18 the project, right. So if this project does happen,
19 and my organization has not taken a position on it,
20 but if it does happen, we want to make sure that
21 Mainers, good, hard working Mainers get the benefit
22 of being able to build this huge project because
23 right now we don't have that. We do not have that
24 guarantee in place. So the unions that -- 5,000
25 people that I represent across 16 unions, no

1 | guarantee at the opportunity for themselves and their
2 | families to be able to benefit from this project.

3 We already heard that the savings on your
4 bills maybe not so much. We also know that CMP may
5 or may not have a bit of a perception problem out in
6 the community, okay. The opportunity to work with
7 Maine labor to put Mainers to work with good paying
8 jobs with registered apprenticeships so we can train
9 the next generation of our workers is vitally
10 important if this project moves forward.

11 I urge you to please keep that in mind as
12 you think about this project and the benefits that
13 need to be in -- written on paper and signed before
14 anything can happen.

15 | (Applause.)

16 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Jill Stein and
18 I'm from Massachusetts. And I really appreciate the
19 good people of Maine struggling so hard to find a way
20 to make this project make sense, but I have to say I
21 really hope you don't. You shouldn't -- the burden
22 of this project should not be on the people of Maine.
23 This is Massachusetts' problem. This is
24 Massachusetts' effort to meet its own renewable
25 energy -- its lofty renewable energy goals and that

1 should be Massachusetts' problem and I don't think
2 the forests and the fisheries and the wildlife of
3 Maine and your recreational economy and the, you
4 know, the health of the climate in Maine should be
5 paying the price here for Massachusetts' lofty goals.

6 And I must say that, you know, there is a
7 lot of brainwashing going on here and I'm really
8 sorry that this sort of flew under the radar in
9 Massachusetts or we would have been fighting it and
10 that our lofty goals are now being met if this
11 project goes through with what is really fake
12 renewable energy. This is not clean energy and, you
13 know, from the get-go hydro is destructive, it's
14 dirty, it violates human rights. And from what we
15 heard from the MIT professor, it's also, you know,
16 it's twice as dirty as coal. And I really urge
17 anybody who didn't hear what he said to please pick
18 up a copy of his remarks or listen to a tape or
19 something, but, you know, this is well-documented
20 stuff which I had heard but I didn't actually have
21 the evidence for it. So this is not clean energy.

22 And one more thing, which is that the
23 contract is a scam and the contract, which
24 Massachusetts has approved actually says that -- it's
25 full of loopholes and it essentially allows

1 Hydro-Quebec to substitute dirty fossil fuel energy.
2 There is no way for Massachusetts to monitor what
3 kind of energy is coming to us. There are no
4 prohibitions against that. It creates incentives for
5 cheating and for dirty fossil fuel and we should say
6 no to this project. It shouldn't be on the back of
7 Maine. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. GOSSELIN: Our next speaker?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you read the names
11 again?

12 MS. GOSSELIN: Yup. Jill Stein, Benjamin
13 Dudley, Carlton Wilcox and Lyn Grotke.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. Good evening.
15 My name is Benjamin Dudley and I'm a resident of
16 Portland and I serve as the Director of Mainers for
17 Clean Energy Jobs, a coalition of workers,
18 businesses, environmentally conscious Mainers.

19 We care deeply about Maine, its people, its
20 economy and its environmental future. The voices
21 around our table include Mainers who are business
22 leaders, contractors, labor unions and environmental
23 leaders. Some of our members have a long history of
24 stern competition with each other. The New England
25 Clean Energy Connect compels us to work together

1 because it's good for Maine workers, its good for the
2 regional economy and it's a significant response to
3 threats of our climate's future.

4 Maine and New England must do our part in
5 decarbonizing our energy systems to meet global
6 greenhouse gas emissions goals by mid-century. The
7 Conservation Law Foundation has concluded, and I
8 quote, climate change threatens to wreak havoc on
9 Maine and New England's forests, coastlines and way
10 of life. That means we must stop using dirty fossil
11 fuels as soon as possible and push forward large
12 scale clean energy projects like the clean energy --
13 like the New England Clean Energy Connect project,
14 closed quote.

15 With respect to the question of fuel
16 security, due to aging facilities and fuel supply
17 challenges Maine and New England face real energy
18 security challenges. Impartial state regulators have
19 already determined that the Clean Energy Connect
20 will, quote, enhance system reliability and fuel
21 security, closed quote, and that's for all of us in
22 New England.

23 The impressive economic benefits that's
24 given to Maine are exhaustively recorded in the May 3
25 PUC order. They include hundreds of millions in

1 suppressed energy prices, a hundred million in
2 employment benefits, \$18 million annually in property
3 tax revenues and hundreds of millions in benefit
4 packages that serve the public interest priorities
5 locally and throughout the state.

6 As with any infrastructure project that
7 serves the public interest we acknowledge that there
8 will be trade-offs like CLF and the Maine PUC and
9 many other experts who have exhaustively reviewed
10 project details. We agree that the benefits
11 significantly outweigh the cost of the project.

12 In conclusion, it is right that the totality
13 of public interest must thoroughly be considered in
14 large projects like this. As we collect -- as we
15 collectively embark on the total transformation of
16 our energy systems to address climate, with so little
17 time to do it we must also recognize public interest
18 is not served by redundant and dilatory processes.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am Lyn Grotke and I live
22 in Unity, Maine.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am Lyn Grotke. I live
25 in Unity, Maine and I am here as a citizen

1 representing myself. I, like young Chloe, am an
2 Appalachian Trail through-hiker. I was -- I probably
3 hiked the trail before Chloe was born, but when the
4 Appalachian -- when I hiked the Appalachian Trail,
5 different than when Chloe did, it went through
6 private land and the landowners allowed us to walk
7 through their land in trust and we took good care of
8 that land as hikers. We respected their hospitality
9 very much. Over time that trail became public land.
10 It's a trust. Their land -- they gave it over to us
11 often freely to take care of. Now this corridor
12 wants to cross the Appalachian three times. The
13 Appalachian is 2,100 miles long and throughout the
14 trail there is no other place than the 100 mile
15 wilderness here in Maine where there are no road
16 crossings, where there is really true wilderness. It
17 is the only part of that 2,000 mile corridor. This
18 CMP corridor is going to negatively impact that
19 trail. We are holding that land that came from these
20 people who wanted that trail to be protected in
21 perpetuity and they did not give that land so that it
22 could be left to be plowed through with the CMP power
23 corridor. It is a complete betrayal of those people.

24 Maine people have spoken very eloquently
25 here about many things that I agree about but I have

1 no expertise, but I can say that I think that that is
2 a very wrong thing to do. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Sorry, if I
5 interrupt you, please. The next speakers will be Jim
6 Wellehan, Dot Kelly, Steven McCarthy and Dennis
7 Pollock. Sir.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm Carl Wilcox,
9 resident of New Gloucester. I live 2.4 transmission
10 miles from the Suroweic substation in Pownal when
11 this all comes to an end.

12 Fundamentally, I support this project;
13 however, there is like three things that prevents me
14 from accepting it.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Carl Wilcox.) There is
17 three items that prevents me from agreeing with this
18 project. One, CMP is an incompetent contractor.
19 Last month it came out that the J.D. Power survey of
20 87 power utilities --

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Carl Wilcox.) Out of 87
23 power utilities they were dead last. They were
24 behind PG&E, which managed to burn down multiple tens
25 of thousands of homes of their customers. All right.

1 So for you people that don't live here in Maine have
2 that as a perspective.

3 Second, I listened to Eric Martel, the CEO
4 of Hydro-Quebec, on Maine Calling about a few weeks
5 ago. He seems a very reasonable man. He claims that
6 it sounds to me it's like changing the starter in
7 your car and he just needs to tweak it and he can
8 generate this 1,200 megawatts. However, he refused
9 to state that -- under oath that it wouldn't -- that
10 this isn't a transfer of hydroelectric power that's
11 currently being sold to Boston -- to Massachusetts.
12 He needs to do that. Frankly, they need to post a
13 bond and if they don't, like some third-party panel
14 like the Intergovernment Panel of Climate Change
15 finds out they haven't, pull the surety bond for a
16 billion dollars so that we can take out this
17 transmission line and revegetate it. It's a
18 reasonable -- if I build a -- replace a boiler in a
19 state building, I have to have a performance bond
20 that can I fulfill the job and so shouldn't
21 Hydro-Quebec.

22 Third, this application is totally short on
23 alternative analysis. That -- when the -- CMP has a
24 transmission line through my property. I've been
25 there for 42 years. I grew up there, bought it from

1 my father, I have 42 years of personal experience
2 with that transmission line. If they had set it 180
3 feet to the south there wasn't a house at that time
4 for another quarter mile they would have avoided
5 crossing a stream four times within a quarter mile
6 and they wouldn't have added any more stream
7 crossings on this 3.1 mile stretch.

8 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Carl Wilcox.) So they
10 need the detailed analysis of that 53 mile stretch.

11 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
14 Steve McCarthy and I'd like to say thank you folks
15 for being here. By being here you recognize that the
16 citizens of the State of Maine have a right to a say.
17 The citizens of the State of Maine have a voice.
18 Also by being here you notice that CMP has put out a
19 lot of statements, they've put out a lot of press
20 releases, they've said a lot of different things,
21 including the route that they chose. There is
22 currently gravel roads that go from Quebec all the
23 way to Route 201. These options have not been
24 explored.

25 In a private conversation with a high

1 ranking CMP official, CMP did not get a Johnson
2 Mountain wind power project because they were not
3 competitive in transmission. At that point, I said,
4 well, if this project goes through, he just shrugged
5 his shoulders an put his hand up, so take that as you
6 will. A close personal friend that works for Cianbro
7 also stated they have 49 test positive windmill sites
8 along the corridor. And what they'll say is this
9 doesn't matter because it's not in our permit
10 application, it doesn't matter because it's not part
11 of what we're doing here, but it does matter in the
12 cumulative effects in the environment.

13 The Governor of the State of Maine promised
14 the people there would not be one tree felled or one
15 stone overturned until the permitting process was
16 complete. The DEP has already permitted CMP to start
17 cutting routes and start doing clearing and test
18 sites.

19 I have a lot more stuff to add than that,
20 but with that last statement what I'm going to ask is
21 I'm not asking you to be extra scrutinous on their
22 project. I'm not asking you to go above and beyond.
23 I'm asking you give the citizens of the State of
24 Maine the same respect that was given to New
25 Hampshire. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Jim
4 Wellehan. I own Lamey Wellehan Shoes.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: With your back against
6 us --

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Jim Wellehan.) Can you
8 hear me all right?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Use the microphone.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Turn it towards you.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Jim Wellehan.) Okay. I
13 have always been very concerned with the environment.
14 I have gone up and down the Moose River circuit trip.
15 I have done the camping in The Forks, done the
16 Kennebec River, enjoyed all that stuff. My son hiked
17 the Appalachian Trail.

18 We, as a company, we own Lamey Wellehan,
19 decided we had to cut greenhouse gases back when the
20 Copenhagen caucus was going on and we have achieved a
21 50 percent cut in greenhouse gases by now as we
22 committed to. And it was a very doable thing and
23 it's very affordable; however, we had a 30 percent to
24 do a couple of years ago, you know, better ceiling,
25 better insulation in the walls, better windows, LED

1 lights, all that stuff, but at some point in time,
2 you know, greenhouse gases were -- 350 was the -- was
3 the organization there and that was the -- our
4 greenhouse gases were. They had 415 in Russia that
5 past spring. So we are growing our greenhouse gases.
6 Each year our greenhouse gases grow and each year we
7 subsidize our oil companies with \$20 billion federal
8 and that cannot stay.

9 Now, I -- I am here because having done
10 that, we looked at how are we going to heat the
11 stores, how are we going to transport, you know, all
12 of the cars and so forth that are there and the
13 answer to that is electric cars and heat pumps and
14 other things, but you know what, clean energy in
15 Maine covers about 10 percent of our total energy.
16 We need more clean energy desperately.

17 I am in support -- times up. I am
18 supporting this at this point in time. I heard some
19 wonderful things, but I think you have no choice but
20 to make Massachusetts cleaner and Maine cleaner
21 because it's all our area. I'm going to provide some
22 papers for you.

23 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Jim Wellehan.) Thank you
25 very much.

1 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. You can provide
2 them to the stenographer up in the front. Sir, next.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Dennis Pollock.
4 I'm from Manchester. The second Maine Guide that
5 spoke today mentioned Number 5 Mountain. It's in the
6 middle of that area where the transmission line is
7 scheduled to go through. I wrote a short poem for
8 the Army Corps. It's called Poem For The Army Corps.
9 Number 5 Mountain, you're on the chopping block.

10 (Laughter.)

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. I'm going to call
13 the next four speakers up. Delbert Reed, Tom
14 Saviello, Bob Haynes and Charlene Cummings.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Tom Saviello already
16 spoke.

17 MS. GOSSELIN: Oh, that's right, he did. So
18 I'll go to the next person then. Elizabeth Caruso.
19 Oh, she already spoke.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

21 MS. GOSSELIN: Jillian Burrows then, you're
22 next. I'm sorry, go ahead.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Dot
24 Kelly. Thank you very much for holding this public
25 hearing for all of the people who are attending in

1 the audience.

2 I've been an intervenor at the process with
3 the PUC on the New England Clean Energy Connect, but
4 I want to focus on just one smaller item because the
5 Army Corps as the agency for the NEPA permit has a
6 requirement to take a hard look at the environmental
7 aspects beyond just wetlands and waterways, the
8 important Section 404, and I want to focus on the
9 safety of this particular above-ground high voltage
10 DC current line. That's a new type of technology for
11 CMP and the fact that it's direct current, it has
12 different physical properties than and AC current and
13 the VSC asynchronist technology that they are
14 proposing is usually used underground. And the
15 reason for that is that lightening strikes impacts
16 its ability to have insulation, so just the air
17 around the line is insulating and can accelerate
18 fires and cause fires.

19 I have mentioned this a number times at the
20 Public Utilities Commission process, but they said it
21 was not really their place. They were looking at
22 other issues and I want to make sure that the safety
23 from fires is clearly looked at. We know from the
24 campfire and the fires in California and Texas and
25 Arizona and Brazil and Canada that since the early

1 2000s fires from power lines was known to be a
2 problem, but it was hidden like asbestos, like maybe
3 lighting gasoline.

4 Now, we -- it's been admitted to and even
5 more is becoming known what they say to do is to
6 underground and if not underground then the wires
7 themselves should be insulated. There is better
8 technology than what's proposed and I want to make
9 sure it gets looked at in detail. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Del
13 Reed. I live where I grew up in Freeman Township on
14 several hundred acres of working forest. No one
15 values the area's scenic beauty and abundant wildlife
16 more than I do.

17 I am a licensed professional electrical
18 engineer and have worked in the forest products
19 industry. I've been an Operations and Construction
20 Manager for Central Maine Power and a consultant in
21 several states. I am very familiar with the Jackman,
22 The Forks the Caratunk areas. During the ice storm
23 of '98, I was the operation manager responsible for
24 this region.

25 The suggestion that this project will lead

1 to increased fragmentation of the forest and
2 increased development is just plain wrong. The
3 finished project may actually decrease fragmentation,
4 particularly with all of the mitigation planned. In
5 no way do the impacts of this project rise to the
6 level of requiring an Environmental Impact
7 Statements.

8 First, the portion of the new line is in a
9 commercial forest with thousands of miles of logging
10 roads and laydown yards. This isn't a wilderness
11 area or a national park. And 2/3 of the line is
12 being built in CMP's existing corridors. Secondly,
13 this is a DC line which no users can tie into so it
14 will not promote other development.

15 But most of all this project is both
16 responsible and reasonable. It's reasonable because
17 New England is retiring nearly 10,000 megawatts of
18 old coal, oil and nuclear plants in the future and
19 will need to replace these with clean power. If
20 hydro is not the replacement any time soon, ISO New
21 England will need to find out dispatchable sources
22 and that means more fracked natural gas.

23 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Delbert Reed.)

25 Additionally, this proposed line has excess capacity

1 for Maine ratepayers, so not if it's needed but when
2 we need it it will be available.

3 As a Mainer, I urge you to approve this
4 project. It is very good for Maine and is good for
5 the planet. Thank you.

6 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for having this.
8 My name is Charlene Cummings from Phippsburg, Maine
9 and a permit for this project should not be approved.

10 I have read a large amount of filings in
11 this case and I and thousand of other Mainers have
12 come to the same conclusion. Maine's greatest asset
13 is its natural beauty. This corridor spreads 53
14 miles, will scar the landscape and remove thousands
15 of trees that help mitigate carbon emissions. CMP
16 has not adequately considered a less damaging
17 alternative, which is why an Environmental Impact
18 Study absolutely needs to be done for this project
19 especially considering similar projects in New
20 Hampshire and Vermont both had one done.

21 As the daughter of Bob Cummings, who was
22 instrumental in recovering 400,000 acres of public
23 lands for the people of Maine, I am aware that part
24 of this corridor is -- part of this corridor is
25 splitting a public lot in half for \$3,500 a year,

1 which is less than the value of the wood on these 35
2 acres. This could be challenged in court because
3 there are conflicting laws governing the use of these
4 public lands. As you are probably aware, Vermont has
5 a project that is ready to go that accomplishes the
6 stated goals of this project except for lining the
7 pockets of CMP shareholders. Thank you again for
8 having this hearing.

9 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. GOSSELIN: And the next four speakers
12 Jillian Burrows, Pamela Prodan, Howard Trotzky and
13 Larry Warren.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Jillian Burrows.) You
15 said my name twice. I was already up here.

16 MS. GOSSELIN: Excellent. So then Bruce
17 Taylor, please, is next. Thank you.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cualli youalli and nitoca
19 cuanhtlatodtzin. Good evening, everybody. My name
20 is Jill Burrows. I represent myself.

21 I wanted to bring up the concern that I have
22 about segmentation. The forest is already segmented.
23 There are already roads going through that, but there
24 are recent studies that show that any further
25 segmentation vastly reduces the capacity of it to

1 support life and all of the other animals.

2 Now, the thing is that we are carbon-based
3 plan forms. Pretty much everything that exists so
4 far is carbon-based. There is no artificial life
5 forms that I know of yet and they all hold carbon in
6 as long as they're living. As soon as they cease to
7 live that carbon is released into the environment and
8 it either becomes absorbed into the soil or released
9 into the atmosphere, but besides that it's basically
10 what's surrounding it at the time.

11 So just please think about more than
12 yourselves. Think about the actual animals. And
13 there are studies that show this. I can probably
14 provide those later, but I don't have them with me
15 right now.

16 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. GOSSELIN: Next.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is
20 Pamela Prodan. I live in Wilton and I'm speaking as
21 an individual.

22 Approximately 30 some years ago, I and many
23 other people thought that then CMP/Hydro-Quebec line
24 was in a different location, but it was in Western
25 Maine. We formed a group No Thank Q Hydro-Quebec and

1 I'd like to submit as an exhibit, a small brochure
2 that was published in 1991, which explains our
3 perspective that even then we considered that project
4 to be a dinosaur. My second Exhibit consists of a
5 publication that was in the Tulsa Law Journal that I
6 wrote. The article was about the legal framework of
7 Hydro-Quebec's imports.

8 I would like to endorse a full Environmental
9 Impact Statement. I think it is needed and
10 appropriate to take advantage, or excuse me, to take
11 adequate time to review the project and address
12 people's concerns. 30 years ago there was a full
13 Environmental Impact Statement. I believe it was
14 done by the Department of Energy because a
15 Presidential Permit was required then.

16 What are the impacts on threatened and
17 endangered species? The Endangered Species Act does
18 define endangered species without geographic
19 limitations. The agency should consider whether
20 granting a permit will affect any endangered or
21 threatened species regardless of whether the species
22 is located in the proposed alternative. And I'm
23 submitting this article because I talk a little bit
24 more about it.

25 We also need to know about the alternatives

1 to this project. Is it the best -- is this project
2 the best alternative? What about energy efficiency?
3 Please examine the alternatives closely. Thank you.

4 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name Larry Warren. I
7 live in New Portland, Maine. I have been involved in
8 recreational development in Maine for over 50 years.
9 My comments will be brief because in April -- on
10 April 25 of this year, I submitted written comments
11 to the Army Corps regarding the NECEC project and I
12 supplement those comments with my support for an
13 Environmental Assessment by the Army Corps, encourage
14 an expeditious review and would support approval for
15 this project.

16 The Maine Public Utilities Commission, the
17 Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the
18 Land Use Planning Commission have been engaged in a
19 thorough and exhaustive review of this project.
20 Unfortunately, little attention has been given to the
21 merits of the project including environmental and
22 economic benefits as well as the significant efforts
23 by CMP to minimize the adverse impacts of the project
24 on our natural resources and our environment.

25 For the reasons I had mentioned in my prior

1 comments and for the reasons set forth in CMP's July
2 1 Army Corps application, the Army Corps should find
3 that the project meets applicable standards and
4 should resist politically motivated efforts to engage
5 in an Environmental Impact Statement, which would
6 unnecessarily delay the implementation of this
7 necessary project. Thank you.

8 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Bruce Taylor
10 speaking as an individual. I hope that the Army --
11 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would appreciate what
12 General George S. Patten said, the most important
13 form of discipline is administrative discipline. And
14 I think when you look at CMP and its parent
15 organization, Avangrid, they have failed Maine
16 miserably and in other states. When you look at
17 their administrative problems and sanctions with
18 billing, disaster response, and in this week
19 self-admitted failure in system reliability and also
20 unprecedented actions in the PUC, I think there is a
21 major systemic problem with the ability to
22 administrate their plan. Their plan is a \$1 billion
23 investment supposedly for hydro -- for carrying
24 electricity. The problem with this is it's just not
25 planning putting on paper, it's the administration of

1 that plan, it's preventing fire, it's using
2 pesticides and I think that their -- if you look --
3 if you look at their track record they're going to
4 fail miserably and I think we have to think of PG&E.

5 I am shocked that the U.S. Army with their
6 mission, and I quote, protecting environment,
7 evaluate regional ecosystems and reduce risk from
8 disasters have -- have not begged the question of an
9 Environmental Impact Statement when two other states
10 have had that. It -- Miss Gosselin said they're
11 going to thoroughly evaluate. If you look at the
12 small letters back on that poster they quote a 1988
13 study on the impact wetlands. I hope that when you
14 evaluate you have something more recent than that.
15 We're talking forests, we're talking the wetlands of
16 the United States. And specifically I'm very
17 concerned about pesticides. When I was a selectman
18 in the Town of Sweden and it was either Line 91 or
19 Line 97 in 19- -- in 2017, I asked the guys who were
20 spreading pesticides what were they using and they
21 said we're using Glyphosate 2- -- as I recall, they
22 said Glyphosate 2, 4-D and Atrazine. Well, if you go
23 to what was submitted to the Maine Board of
24 Pesticides Control none of those are on there. What
25 is on there, which is very concerning about the

1 waters of the United States, they're using adjuvants
2 that are water soluble and are they going to be able
3 to protect -- to protect the waters of the -- of the
4 United States.

5 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Bruce Taylor.) Thank you
7 very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening and thanks
10 for the opportunity to be here. My name is Bob
11 Haynes. I'm the Coordinator for the Old Canada Road
12 National Scenic Byway, which runs from the Town of
13 Solon to the Quebec border.

14 The Directors of the Old Canada Road
15 National Scenic Byway have major concerns with the
16 process involving the power line corridor application
17 put forth by Central Maine Power Company and proposed
18 as New England Clean Energy Connect. We are
19 requesting that a complete Environmental Impact
20 Statement be done. The basis of this request is made
21 as a full impact statement was conducted in New
22 Hampshire and Vermont for similar projects. Our
23 Maine location is certainly as complicated and is
24 environmentally more diverse.

25 The transmission line would cross the

1 National Scenic Byway, which is Route 201, twice in
2 it's path to Lewiston, once in the Township of
3 Johnson Mountain and again in Moscow. Old Canada
4 Road is a destination for travelers worldwide and
5 during their stay they would be exposed to the new
6 non-traditional use of land several times in their
7 travels to area natural attractions. The applicant
8 in the DEP record stated that the transmission line
9 corridor would be visible from the Byway for 48
10 seconds in a northbound direction and 95 seconds in a
11 southbound direction. Clearly, they have missed the
12 point that a byway is a destination and not simply a
13 pass-through. Travelers come to Maine for an
14 experience and that for many it's uncluttered space
15 that the Maine woodlands provide from many scenic
16 viewpoints miles away from the actual 201 corridor.
17 The scenic corridor described by FHWA is the road or
18 highway right of way and the adjacent area that is
19 visible from and extending along the highway. The
20 distance of the corridor extends from the highway
21 could vary with the different intrinsic qualities.
22 Clearly, clearing 53 miles of new corridor will
23 influence much more than a several second window.

24 In closing, I would ask the group to
25 consider the applicant, Central Maine Power, by a

1 stipulation cannot be involved in the construction or
2 management and a new organization will be formed and
3 then such permit would be transferred and
4 administered by Iberdrola, the majority owner of
5 Avangrid. Please consider this request. Thank you
6 so much for your time and for holding this meeting.

7 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. GOSSELIN: And this is just a note that
10 at 7 o'clock we're going to take a 10 minute break,
11 so that's in about, I think, 25 minutes from now.
12 And before you speak, sir, let me just call up the
13 next four folks. Susan Ely, Lew McGregor, Jeffrey
14 Reardon and Todd Towle. Thank you.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Howard
16 Trotzky. I am from Bangor. I have a home in
17 Caratunk. And I was Chairman of the -- I was Senate
18 Chairman of the Energy Committee in the Legislature
19 and the Natural Resources Committee of 1974 through
20 '82.

21 Energy is a very difficult issue because
22 there are environmental trade-offs whichever way you
23 go. In 1974, we had Maine Yankee, a nuclear power
24 plant which produced 50 percent of the energy of
25 Maine and sent also energy into the New England power

1 grid to Massachusetts. And but, however,
2 unfortunately what I believe is we should be going
3 nuclear. I know it's not popular in many areas, but
4 all of the others there are trade-offs. When you
5 build dams you end up flooding beautiful river
6 valleys and, of course, I'm not familiar with Canada,
7 but many people have stated there are environmental
8 problems with what's going on there.

9 I can tell you right now that if you love
10 the State of Maine and you know the Upper Kennebec
11 Valley that you will be opposed to this project if
12 you love this state. The gal who spoke there, she's
13 gone, the blonde haired gal really spoke for what I
14 felt. It goes to my heart what she said. And
15 because my life -- what's important -- what's
16 important to me in my life is climbing the mountains
17 of Maine. I was a guide guiding on the rivers and so
18 on.

19 I can tell you right now that with all of
20 the activity you're going through it may mean nothing
21 because the people of this state I believe that
22 referendum are going to turn down this project
23 overwhelmingly as it should be turned down. However,
24 what's important is this is an existential threat for
25 the environment and therefore we have to do

1 something. There may be another route for this power
2 line. There is a Montreal pipeline route and so on.

3 And anyway, it's a tremendous honor to be
4 standing here at the same microphone that Jill Stein
5 stood at who single-handedly -- single-handedly put
6 Trump into the presidency.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Again, I'll call
9 Susan Ely, Lew McGregor, Jeffrey Reardon and Todd
10 Towle.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
12 Sue Ely and I am the Climate and Clean Energy Program
13 attorney for the Natural Resources Council of Maine
14 in Augusta. NRCM is Maine's largest environmental
15 advocacy group with over 25,000 members and
16 supporters. We are strongly opposed and urge the
17 Army Corps to deny CMP's permit application and to do
18 a full Environmental Impact Statement.

19 While the totality of this project imposes
20 significant environmental and social impacts on
21 Maine, we are the most concerned about the
22 approximately 54 miles of new permanently cleared
23 transmission corridor stretching from the Quebec
24 corridor down into Caratunk. CMP's project is not in
25 the public interest. It's opposed by an overwhelming

1 majority of Maine people and would significantly
2 impact Maine's environment by permanently impacting
3 fragmenting one of the largest -- the largest
4 contiguous temperate forest in North America.

5 CMP has said that this is a degraded forest
6 land. The difference between this project and
7 forestry is that this project is permanent and
8 forestry grows back and that is significant in
9 environmental harm. It's going to damage hundreds of
10 high quality brook trout streams and ponds and reduce
11 the abundance of large, woody debris. It will
12 severely weaken the ecological webs that connect the
13 vernal pools and wetlands. It bisects the last good
14 deer wintering habitat in The Forks region and
15 threatens our tourism and guiding industries.

16 The only benefit that CMP is claiming that
17 this project is going to provide is this carbon
18 reduction benefit. It's wishful thinking. We've
19 heard mention of tons of carbon emissions reductions
20 from LEI study. That study didn't -- that study
21 assumes that this was a zero carbon resource and it
22 didn't look at arbitrage or selling in and out of
23 market so it's irrelevant to this analysis of carbon
24 emissions.

25 Simply put, this project will not provide

1 benefit and will have significant harm to Maine. We
2 are asking the Army Corps to do -- to provide all of
3 the permitting documents available on the website, to
4 connect a real alternatives analysis including
5 putting the line along existing corridors such as
6 roads and to perform a full Environmental Impact
7 Statement. This is what happens when citizens click
8 on the link in the public notes. It's an Error 404.
9 It's overwhelmingly opposed by Maine citizens and
10 Maine towns. 25 towns have voted to oppose the
11 project or rescind support. We ask you to do a full
12 Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the full
13 harm that this project would cause. Thank you very
14 much.

15 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Jeff Reardon next. I
18 thought there was one more name before me, but nobody
19 was standing here.

20 MS. GOSSELIN: Lew McGregor? Nope. Okay.
21 You're next.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
23 Jeff Reardon. I live in Manchester and I'm here
24 tonight representing Trout Unlimited and its six
25 Maine chapters.

1 TU opposes the NECEC project because of its
2 unacceptable impacts on wild brook trout habitat.
3 Segment 1 would cut a new 53 mile long by 150 foot
4 wide corridor through what the National Fish Habitat
5 Partnership identified as the least impacted aquatic
6 habitat in the northeast. The Eastern Brook Trout
7 Joint Venture called the same area the last true
8 stronghold for brook trout in the United States. My
9 most significant brook trout project for TU in 20
10 years was helping the state acquire the Cold Stream
11 Forest property, 8,200 acres acquired specifically to
12 protect brook trout by maintaining intact riparian
13 forest buffers.

14 In Segment 1, the NECEC will cross Cold
15 Stream and its largest tributary Tomhegan Stream and
16 230 other streams identified as brook trout habitat
17 by the MDIF&W. And just as an aside here, I want to
18 point out that there is a question about whether CMP
19 has appropriately identified all of the brook trout
20 streams. There is a significant back and forth in
21 the DEP record between CMP and the Department of
22 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and I keep hearing the
23 number 150 streams thrown around, which is what's in
24 CMP's application, but comments from the Department
25 has doubled that number of streams. It's still not

1 clear to me whether that's been updated.

2 All of CMP's crossings will remove all
3 vegetation taller than 20 feet from the entire 150
4 foot wide corridor and no matter what you call it
5 that is not a 100 foot natural riparian buffer. What
6 should you do about it? Number one, conduct a full
7 Environmental Impact Statement. The scale of this
8 project, the quality of the aquatic and terrestrial
9 habitat will be impacted and the level of public
10 concern all require that. And if we're ever going to
11 get a decent evaluation of the only environmental
12 benefit of this project, the clean energy benefits,
13 it's going to be you that does it because we haven't
14 had one yet and you're last in the permitting stream.

15 Determine, based on a rigorous analysis,
16 whether there are any public benefits. We've heard a
17 lot about the questions about climate change
18 benefits. And assess what are CMP alternatives
19 analysis is sufficient. In particular, there are a
20 number of alternatives that we discussed extensively
21 in the DEP and the LUPC processes that would limit
22 the impacts on brook trout streams. CMP has neither
23 adopted or evaluated those alternatives. Thank you.

24 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. GOSSELIN: I'll now call the next four
2 people and then after those -- the next five
3 people -- speakers -- the next five speakers we'll
4 take a 10 minute break. So would Wayne Deri, Becky
5 Barjovics, Kate Weatherby and Bob Weingarten, please
6 come forward. Sir, you may start.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is
8 Todd Towle. I live in Kingfield, Maine. I am a 20
9 year plus registered Maine Guide. I have to follow
10 Jeff Reardon now.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Closer to the mic.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Todd Towle.) I'm going
13 to follow Jeff Reardon, so it's going to almost sound
14 identical, but not as eloquent.

15 I'm given the responsibility to talk today
16 concerning Maine's brook trout. Before this country
17 was founded brook trout were already established in
18 Maine to Iowa, okay, to give you an idea. Decade by
19 decade habitat through original range has been
20 compromised to the point very few populations exists
21 today. Maine is the last stronghold for native wild
22 brook trout. The gene pool is perfect. And simply
23 the last best place.

24 Species throughout the planet are
25 threatened, endangered, becoming extinct or already

1 extinct or disappeared in part of an ill conceived
2 for-profit project. This project in my view is such
3 a bad project. The proposal project will only harm
4 or destroy the very habitat brook trout require.
5 Granting this permit would be irresponsible and
6 unethical and ill conceived. One of Maine's most
7 iconic species deserves our stewardship for not only
8 its future but for ours. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Becky Barjovics.
12 First, I want to thank Representative Golden for
13 requesting this hearing and for you to be here today.
14 I wear a Sierra Club hat. I have been on the
15 leadership of Sierra Club and I want to just point
16 out that Sierra Club and an attorney for us has
17 submitted three separate letters to you and I want to
18 commend those to you.

19 I had written you a poem, but I think I'm
20 going to forgo the poem for some other reasons. Very
21 first, if this doesn't trigger an EIS, I don't know
22 what kind of project large enough would trigger it
23 other than this. This is a huge project. The
24 wetlands alone should require it. And I just want to
25 say I have been hearing this for the last 30 years,

1 we lose wetlands in this country at 10 percent a
2 year. I don't know we're going to, you know, ever or
3 when we're going to have the bottom of the wetlands,
4 but this is a very large area of wetlands to lose and
5 no mitigation -- the mitigation dollars does not
6 create no net loss, which is in the 404. So, you
7 know, these -- that is net loss you may buy some
8 piece of land somewhere, but it's not the same piece
9 of land, it's not the land where the endangered
10 species are living and that is right in the law. So
11 and we should be proud of this law in the State of
12 Maine because our -- and our dear Muskie was germane
13 in avoiding it. I think it's really important for us
14 to think about it. I feel very frustrated that the
15 Army Corps has not followed through on 404 many times
16 in the state and I just -- I want to point that out.

17 I'm just going to read a little bit of my
18 poem since I have a couple of seconds. Perhaps you
19 haven't heard the news. We are in the midst of the
20 sixth greatest extinction. Perhaps you haven't heard
21 that we have lost 60 percent of our songbirds.
22 Perhaps you haven't heard the songs of those Wood
23 Thrush or the green frog or the Warblers. Perhaps
24 you haven't heard 80 percent of the insects of the
25 world are dying off. Perhaps you haven't stood in a

1 stream fishing for trout or simply standing there,
2 clean water rushing by, Mayflies flitting --

3 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Becky Barjovics.) --
5 fish writhing. I'll give you some more later.

6 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
9 Kate Weatherby. I live in New Sharon, Maine and I
10 represent myself.

11 What I find quite concerning is the fact
12 that transmission lines invariably go hand-in-hand
13 with pesticides and herbicides. There has been a
14 great deal of information published recently about
15 the dramatic decline of infected bird populations
16 across North America most likely due to habitat loss
17 and the use of pesticides. I have read through a
18 fair bit of the compensation plan Central Maine Power
19 prepared. It was actually encouraging to see the
20 steps CMP is required to mitigate and offset the
21 impacts of the NECEC project would have on the
22 wetlands it would cross. Unfortunately, nowhere in
23 there did I see any mention of the impacts that the
24 use of pesticides would have on the habitats affected
25 by the transmission line. Any promise to restore

1 habitats losses its validity if you fail to take into
2 account the consequences these destructive chemicals
3 would have.

4 I know I am not alone on this issue and that
5 Central Maine Power has finally listened to concerns
6 about this and has agreed to clear the new section of
7 corridor with cutting. In making that promise, CMP
8 has conceded that these chemicals do cause harm, so I
9 find it rather alarming that CMP is still willing to
10 basically double the amount of pesticides they would
11 use in the existing that runs along people's back
12 yards. Unfortunately, the cost of their existing
13 practices are already being borne by their customers
14 though we may not be aware of it.

15 About 18 months ago, I was talking to a
16 young man in New Sharon about the proposed
17 transmission line. He told me that years ago he used
18 to trap muskrat, that is, right up until the existing
19 transmission line was built. After that there were
20 no more muskrat to be had. He believes the
21 population crash was a direct result of the
22 pesticides used to maintain the line. Admittedly,
23 this is secondhand information, but this is exactly
24 the kind of lasting detrimental effect a full
25 Environmental Impact Statement should expose. I

1 think it would be quite clear that the public -- the
2 real public need here is to remedy that situation,
3 not exacerbate it by failing to fully evaluate the
4 project.

5 I strongly encourage you to conduct a full
6 Environmental Impact Statement to determine all of
7 the effects this project would have on our wetlands,
8 the species they harbor and everyone and everything
9 downstream from it. Thank you for your time.

10 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Bob
13 Weingarten. I'm from Vienna, Maine and I'm here to
14 represent Friends of the Boundary Mountains. We are
15 an activist grassroots group whose mission is to
16 protect Maine's great boundary mountains and to
17 preserve that habitat for wildlife, for recreation
18 and for forestry.

19 We are an intervenor in the DEP proceedings
20 on the CMP corridor. As such, we commissioned a
21 study of fragmentation of the Western Maine
22 Mountains. We had Dr. Janet McMahon do that study.
23 She is an eminent scientist who has studied
24 fragmentation for a long time. She has said the
25 proposed CMP project transmission corridor would be

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am Wayne Deri. I have
2 worked in -- I'm from Farmington. I worked in solar
3 back when it was considered an unlikely source of
4 power. Thank you fellow citizens --

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hold the mic up.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Wayne Deri.) Okay.
7 Thank you fellow citizens, the Army Corps of
8 Engineers, protectors and builders of our
9 environment. We do not behave well or morally if we
10 accept the industrial change that hydro, Quebec Hydro
11 in particular, is a green project.

12 The big picture we are looking at here is
13 that we want to -- that we want to make us all
14 happier and more comfortable with cheap green hydro
15 electricity. This is what the big industries tell us
16 and it is a wrong picture when they weigh it as
17 wrong. And the one I want to us to see -- want us to
18 see here today is that hydro is not green, not net
19 green, not green in many of its parts.

20 Please read the informative Harpers'
21 Magazine article about Corps of Engineers and our
22 damming of the rivers of the Northwest United States
23 and the destruction trucks that resulted. It's in
24 the November issue, Page 68 entitled The 68,000
25 Dollar Fish. It clearly applies to us here. Like

1 the Northwest, U.S. engineering projects and like
2 Crown Corporations across Canada, Quebec Hydro floods
3 an area the size of states. Hydro-Quebec floods an
4 area the size of Connecticut or half of the size of
5 Maine. These lands are, or were, subarctic, mature
6 woodlands storing CO2 producing oxygen. Quebec-Hydro
7 floods approximately 20 square miles altering
8 watersheds totaling more than many U.S. states. We
9 do not and would not do that here in Maine.

10 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Wayne Deri.) I'd like to
12 also point people to the North American Megadam
13 Resistance Alliance where native -- where First
14 Nation people have spoke in Farmington last week,
15 please see that for the text. It's online.

16 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. After the break
19 we'll have Robert Daigle, George Mason, Kimberly
20 Lyman and Douglas Stowett speak. The meeting will
21 start again at 7:10. Thank you.

22 (Break.)

23 COLONEL CONDE: Okay. If people could start
24 moving towards your seats we'll get going here. And
25 as I mentioned a minute ago, we're going to close the

1 hearing at 8 o'clock, so when Beth calls your name
2 we're going to give you a few minutes. If you go
3 quicker, that would be great, that means we can get
4 more folks up. If you were not able to get up
5 tonight and give a statement you can turn in a
6 written statement this evening to our reporter or you
7 can submit it to the Corps online or in writing up
8 until 6 January and all statements and comments will
9 be weighed equally. There is no difference between a
10 verbal statement and a written statement. Beth.

11 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you, Sir. Oh, I turned
12 off the mic before. Are you Robert Daigle?

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am.

14 MS. GOSSELIN: Oh, there he is.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is Bob
16 Daigle. I'm a resident of Maine and I speak in favor
17 of this project. And, oh, by the way, Colonel, I'll
18 mention I was also for 12 years between active and
19 reserves an officer of the Army Corps of Engineers,
20 so.

21 COLONEL CONDE: Go Army. Thank you, sir.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Bob Daigle.) Anyway, I
23 support this project. I'll just summarize. I
24 believe it will have great economic impact. I
25 believe that the permitting process is appropriate.

1 And I make a living doing environmental consulting
2 work. I'm a registered PE. I go around the country
3 with clients and I teach them about the laws and how
4 to comply with them and I am often telling them when
5 they need permits. The normal reaction to a permit
6 is usually, oh, no, I hate permits, they're
7 complicated and so forth, but what I tell them is not
8 to feel that way. They feel that permits are a
9 legitimate way that we run our permissive system of
10 you're not allowed to affect the environment without
11 permissions, a permit is the way you do that and the
12 process has legitimacy going through the legislative
13 process to write laws in the first place and this is
14 why it's applied consistently and has legitimacy.

15 And my message for you, Sir, is that as you
16 consider this project, I know you understand that a
17 lot of entities simply don't want the project to
18 pass. They were not accepting the fact that our PUC
19 has already said it's a good project with benefits to
20 the people of Maine. They're not accepting the fact
21 that our DEP, the agency responsible for
22 environmental protection is in charge of this and
23 will manage to comply with our requirements. They
24 just want this project to be stopped and they're
25 trying to use the Army Corps of Engineers to do that

1 with an Environmental Impact Statement and it's more
2 appropriate for an Environmental Assessment. And I
3 just urge you to protect your own legitimacy in the
4 process by holding to the stay in your lane about
5 doing that and resist the pressure in regards to how
6 many voices do it because when you distort the
7 permitting process you hurt the entire way we
8 administer our environmental programs. Thank you.

9 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Lisa Savage,
10 George Mason, Kimberly Lyman and Douglas Stowett.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am Lisa Savage from
12 Solon. Thank you for convening this public hearing
13 on the New England so-called Clean Energy Connect, a
14 proposal that would have enormous impacts in our
15 state.

16 Central Maine Power, as we know, is owned by
17 a Spanish corporate giant and it is no longer a Maine
18 company though it continues using the brand. This is
19 a deal intended to benefit that entity and another
20 foreign entity Hydro-Quebec. Estimated income from
21 the project, 60 million for Iberdrola and up to 500
22 million for Hydro-Quebec each year.

23 The Maine woods are far too great of a
24 public asset for such a massive decision about the
25 future to be made by unaccountable corporations

1 rather than the people of Maine. That's why we have
2 a permitting process so there is public consideration
3 of projects that stand to impact the state far beyond
4 the actual square footage of the project itself. It
5 has been disappointing but telling that Hydro-Quebec
6 has declined thus far to participate in public
7 hearings. Hydro-Quebec CEO Eric Martel told Maine
8 public radio listeners in November on the Maine
9 call-in show if it's necessary I am all for
10 democracy. We in Maine believe democracy is always
11 necessary. Indeed, the potential impact of the NECEC
12 is so great that the people of Maine should have a
13 chance to weigh in directly such as with a statewide
14 referendum, which I support.

15 Corporations have owned the Maine woods for
16 a very long time, but in these days of accelerating
17 climate crisis we must support conservation efforts
18 that take more of our forests into public care. We
19 should maintain access for traditional uses by Native
20 people, we should maintain them for recreation and
21 for tourism and to make sure the woods are
22 sustainably maintained. Opposition to NECEC is
23 widespread in Maine. The stipulation that's been
24 submitted for approval of NECEC claims that that is
25 not true, but if you drive around Maine and see the

1 no CMP corridor signs all over from the northern
2 border to the southern border you know that that's
3 true. Thank you for your time.

4 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is George Mason.
7 I live in Nobleboro. Thank you for hanging in there
8 with us and thank you fellow Maine citizens for
9 coming out and having your say. Having our say.

10 I can make this really brief. There is an
11 issue of environmental justice here that I think just
12 really needs to be considered. I am sad -- I am
13 actually heart sick that we're comparing this with
14 clean energy and that's -- it's dividing many who
15 might consider themselves progressive just -- it
16 makes this question quite complicated. But one thing
17 that hasn't been mentioned enough here, I think, is
18 that this, in fact, is a project I would have
19 imagined back in the 1950s. This is -- it feels
20 retro. It feels personally wrong and there is not in
21 this discussion enough about personal conservation.
22 Some may say that that's not going to be enough, but
23 I really think that there is much that we can do so
24 that there is much that we don't have to build if we
25 are creative and innovative at this juncture. So

1 thank you very much.

2 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. GOSSELIN: Next up we have Edward
5 Walworth, Robert Wood, Susan Theberge and Monica
6 McCarthy.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Kimberly Lyman.
8 I'm from Caratunk, Maine and Carrabassett Valley,
9 Maine. One thing I'd like to point out yet again is
10 that Massachusetts had over 40 bids for this project.
11 It's permitted and shovel ready in Vermont, which
12 means we don't need it. This destruction doesn't
13 even need to be in question. It's not a public need
14 just based on that alone and having it come through
15 Maine simply gives CMP a cheap date for a tidy
16 profit. It's a terrible project for Maine.

17 Like many here in this room, I am an actual
18 expert on the area. I have spent my whole life here.
19 I have a deep and collective understanding of the
20 area. I know the habitat. I'm familiar with the
21 land use here for both businesses and tourism,
22 private and guided. We work here, guide here, have
23 witnessed, profited from and enjoyed the growth of
24 visitors to the region over the last 20 years. They
25 come here to get away from what CMP is now trying to

1 turn this area into, an industrialized area in the
2 middle of a globally special place, a place that has
3 had much recognition for its still wild
4 characteristics. How can any organization ignore the
5 hundreds of streams and wetlands that will be
6 crossed? How can the health of the habitat of the
7 wildlife and the forest that feeds it be ignored and
8 minimized? The domino effect of negativity of this
9 project will threaten the way of life of tens of
10 thousands of Mainers. Guides, stores, hotels,
11 forestry, restaurants, other businesses that tourists
12 combine their stays with.

13 This has a direct effect on my family. My
14 husband is a fishing guide. He and his partners rely
15 on the health of the tributary streams, which will be
16 crossed multiple times by this line. I have been
17 long planning a recreational guiding business that
18 was to come to fruition in the next year as I retire
19 from 23 years of whitewater raft guiding. This area
20 is key to my business future. Nobody wants to come
21 and hike a mountain and look at this. There are many
22 in my area in these same shoes.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You can have my turn.

24 MS. GOSSELIN: If you have closing remarks
25 you can make them.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Kimberly Lyman.) I just
2 hope with all my heart that you hear us. You have
3 the power to do what is right. Thank you for your
4 time.

5 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. Good evening. Thank
8 you for your time. My name is Rob Wood. I'm the
9 Director of Government Relations and Climate Policy
10 for the Nature Conservancy in Maine. The Nature
11 Conservancy is a global conservation organization.
12 We're dedicated to conserving the land and water on
13 which all life depends. We're the twelfth largest
14 land owner here in Maine.

15 The Nature Conservancy science shows that
16 Western and Northern Maine hosts the largest
17 concentration of well-connected and climate change
18 resilient habitat in the Eastern United States. It's
19 an area of significant biodiversity, including
20 habitat for many species listed by the State of Maine
21 as species of greatest conservation need. These
22 forests are important at a local, regional and even
23 global scale and they're especially important to
24 protect due to their resilience to climate change.

25 Segment 1 of the proposed NECEC corridor

1 would traverse this landscape directly or indirectly
2 impacting approximately 5,000 acres of wildlife
3 habitat. The Nature Conservancy believes that based
4 on the evidence presented to date, the proposed NECEC
5 project would have unreasonable impacts and adverse
6 effects on Maine's natural resources and the project
7 should not be admitted as proposed. We believe the
8 project should only be permitted if it is
9 substantially modified in order to address its
10 habitat fragmentation impacts. For example, by
11 rerouting the lines to co-locate with existing roads,
12 by otherwise changing the project design to protect
13 mature forests in the proposed right of way and/or by
14 permanently conserving a large area of mature forests
15 in the effected region to protect against future
16 habitat fragmentation impacts.

17 We submitted additional comments in writing,
18 so I'll leave it there. Thank you very much for your
19 time.

20 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. GOSSELIN: Just one minute, please.

23 Next up is Duane Hanson, James Hallar, Carl Sheline
24 and Timothy Giddinge.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is

1 Susan Theberge and I live in Jay, Maine. I'm here to
2 speak for myself.

3 First, I call upon you, the U.S. Army Corps
4 of Engineers, as lead federal agency under NEPA to
5 perform a complete EIS on the NECEC project compliant
6 with NEPA guidelines, including holding public
7 hearings. Given the damaging impacts to the hundreds
8 of sensitive wetlands, streams and critical
9 ecosystems and the likelihood of future development
10 along this corridor, anything less would cloud the
11 transparency of this project and be a disservice to
12 the land and the people of Maine. Second, to release
13 to the public for review and public comment, the
14 current draft of the NECEC EA. And third, that this
15 project be rejected on the basis that it is a
16 non-water dependent project that will cross, fill and
17 permanently damage hundreds of streams and sensitive
18 wetlands. There are prudent and reasonable
19 alternatives that have not been evaluated under NEPA
20 as outlined to you in the U.S. EPA's letter dated
21 April 25, 2019. The EA should demonstrate that any
22 avoidable alternative that meets the project's
23 purpose and need be selected as the preferred
24 alternative. It is the role of the Army Corps of
25 Engineers in satisfying NEPA to first avoid, then

1 minimize, then mitigate. However, when a merchant
2 line threatens to permanently alter, change or
3 destroy critical natural resources there is no
4 justification to minimize or mitigate the agency must
5 direct to avoid.

6 Some additional concerns. First and
7 foremost, this very -- the very source of this power
8 has caused great harm and suffering to the indigenous
9 people of the Northern Canadian Provinces. Megadams
10 have flooded their traditional homes and hunting
11 lands and poisoned their food sources resulting in
12 lots of their autonomy and culture an endangering
13 their connection to their spiritual corps. To
14 continue to buy and expand Canadian
15 megahydroelectricity makes the U.S. complicit in this
16 ongoing and -- in this ongoing genocide of Native
17 people. Thank you.

18 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Duane Hanson. My wife
21 and I live in T5 R7 on Whipple Pond, which is about
22 halfway through that 53 miles in the woods and we
23 live off the land and all that and fish and hunt and
24 hike and canoe and everything. And I -- we actually
25 make -- produce our own electricity as well, so I

1 have a problem with the idea that there is such a
2 thing as green energy. I think that's just a false
3 statement. It's -- everything comes with a cost.
4 And the natives up in Central Labrador and Quebec are
5 a good example of that. They've destroyed their
6 homes, the people, the wildlife and the fish. We --
7 we live in an area that I have even heard tonight
8 that is just an industrial forest with nothing to,
9 you know, it's -- the Western Mountains of Maine are
10 unique. We have lakes, we have moose and bear and
11 all types of endangered species. We have places
12 where people come to get away from all of the their
13 normal lives, you know, from Massachusetts, even
14 Lewiston, Maine people come and enjoy the hunting and
15 fishing and camping and hiking and canoeing. And I
16 think the woods of Maine -- I worked in the woods for
17 years and the woods of Maine is what it is today
18 after hundreds of years because of the forest
19 industry and when you cut the trees they grow back
20 and the wildlife is the same as what it was all those
21 years ago. So to say that it's not worth saving, I
22 think that's the important thing for us here is we
23 have to save the Maine woods. Thank you.

24 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. GOSSELIN: Next.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thanks. I'm Monica
3 McCarthy and I live in Rome. Thank you for this
4 hearing.

5 This project's proponents would have us act
6 with urgency to approve and permit this project to
7 address climate change. There is no question that
8 climate change poses an existential threat, but the
9 primary causes of climate change is now understood
10 and the unprecedented rate of extinctions that we're
11 experiencing on this planet are habitat fragmentation
12 and unchecked development. NECEC is not only a
13 massive development in it's own right for Maine, but
14 it sets a precedent for future east/west development.
15 And CMP will deny for the time being that there is
16 anything else planned, but this route was very
17 specifically chosen. I mean, you don't decide to go
18 over the mountains and through the woods and cross
19 all of these waterways that you've been hearing about
20 when there are perfectly reasonable and much more
21 direct and efficient ways to get on current roads
22 from the Canadian border down to where there the
23 existing corridor.

24 It has already been established in the
25 record in the PUC proceedings and the DEP hearings

1 that alternatives were not effectively explored, but
2 CMP's own spokespeople have stated publicly that
3 addressing climate change isn't their job. And
4 regardless of the deceptive marketing of this project
5 it's never been about that. Massachusetts issued an
6 RFP and CMP proposed that Maine absorb all of the
7 environmental impacts so that they can make money.
8 That's the bottom line. Not because Mainers need it,
9 not because there are significant benefits, not
10 because it addresses climate change, all of that has
11 been established, none of those apply. It's a
12 merchant line, so the public has a right to know and
13 has a right to the same full Environmental Impact
14 Statement that Vermont and that New Hampshire had.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. GOSSELIN: I'm going to call the next
19 four speakers. Parker Jones, Barbara Olson, Nancy
20 Chandler and Roser Merchant.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Could you read the names
22 next, please?

23 MS. GOSSELIN: From before or?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

25 MS. GOSSELIN: Okay. Hold on. Duane

1 Hanson, James Haller, Carl --

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm James Haller.

3 MS. GOSSELIN: Haller, I'm sorry.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (James Haller.) No
5 worries.

6 MS. GOSSELIN: I've been up here for a
7 while. I'm sorry about that. It's the same thing.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (James Haller.) No, it's
9 okay.

10 MS. GOSSELIN: All right. Please, go ahead.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. Well, as mentioned,
12 my name is James Haller. I reside in Cape Elizabeth,
13 Maine. I grew up here in the state and I went to the
14 University of Maine where I got a degree in
15 Engineering and Physics. I am also a registered
16 Maine Guide where I got not only the pleasure but the
17 privilege to bring others out to this very area that
18 CMP is going to destroy by bringing this transmission
19 line through.

20 I am a young individual, as you can all see,
21 and I very much care about the climate change crisis
22 that we have facing us; however, there has been no
23 proof that this project will help solve that crisis.
24 Furthermore to that, I'd like to point out that the
25 few people that have testified as proponents of this

1 project tonight have basically said that what they
2 want is only an Environmental Assessment and not an
3 Environmental Impact Statement. I find that
4 suspicious when they're trying to state that climate
5 change is our biggest problem yet they don't want to
6 actually look at the environmental damage that we're
7 going to be causing through in acting this corridor.

8 Furthermore, as such, I want to point out
9 that it seems like this project has not been treated
10 fairly in comparison to the similar projects that
11 happened or were proposed in New Hampshire and
12 Vermont as many other people had mentioned like the
13 shovel ready project that would be going through
14 Champlain and go -- stay much closer to road
15 corridors. As the Army Corps of Engineers, you guys
16 should also take those projects into consideration
17 with CMP's project and looking at the grand scale of
18 what we can do to help solve this crisis.

19 Furthermore, in CMP's alternatives analysis
20 I noticed that one of the alternatives that they
21 talked about was the Spencer Road analysis where
22 simply they stated that they did not have the time to
23 do a full analysis of that. I feel that is an
24 embarrassment to allow that to succeed.

25 Finally, in summary, I would say that this

1 project is a bad deal for Maine and I fully request
2 the Corps to do a full and rigorous Environmental
3 Impact Statement of this project. Thank you.

4 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. GOSSELIN: Next.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Carl
8 Sheline. I'm here as an individual and I am a
9 resident of Lewiston and I'm in support of this
10 project.

11 I realize there is a lot of knee jerk
12 reaction here, but the dams have already been built,
13 hydropower is clean and cheap and this is not an oil
14 pipeline that can leak. You know, yes, this project
15 has impacts, but they're incredibly minimal compared
16 to the benefits and it's very easy to lose
17 perspective. You know, think of it this way, imagine
18 if I told you that an idea for industry that involved
19 littering the coast of main with multi-colored buoys
20 all up and down and then we would drive out boats to
21 those buoys and check boxes, you know, several times
22 a day, you know, we -- it would be very hard to get
23 the lobster industry where it is today in today's,
24 you know, political climate. Or what about if I had
25 an idea for a large industrial complex on the coast

1 of Maine and it would just, you know, use large swath
2 of pristine wilderness to get this done. And think
3 about, you know, Bath Iron Works and the amount of
4 benefit that it brings to the State of Maine. You
5 know, we wouldn't be able to able to build it
6 today -- like if this was -- if this was Bath Iron
7 Works and we were having this hearing it would never
8 happen. So I think it's just important to keep
9 perspective as to the benefits of this project. I
10 appreciate your time. Thank you.

11 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Go ahead.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm Barbara Olson.
13 I'm close to here in Durham and I'm a transplant
14 retired military wife and this is my home. This is
15 my home because it is close to where I've come from,
16 North Dakota and Minnesota. It is nature. I love
17 camping. I haven't been everywhere, but it is
18 beautiful and CMP is going to find a way to destroy
19 that. And I am not into politics, but this is
20 something that is my heart.

21 My town along with many others voted this
22 down, but it seems like people aren't listening to us
23 and that's the problem I also have with this. We
24 will destroy many forests, wetlands, many animals
25 will go extinct or they will get hurt, they'll get

1 sick. We were talking about the trout. I am not an
2 expert in all of this, but when we do something in
3 nature there are repercussions. Yes, there is this
4 big corridor, but it is going to affect the outside
5 of that. Whatever we do is going to affect nature on
6 the other side and on this side.

7 It is not for the public interest. Maine
8 doesn't get a dime. If it is, it's very little. And
9 we don't get any of that electricity. Our bill does
10 not go down. It is for Massachusetts and CMP and
11 whoever owns CMP. And we have this thing about
12 global warming and gas emissions. We're cutting more
13 trees, which doesn't reduce the gas emissions. We're
14 adding to the problem. There are many occupations
15 that I don't know what they all are, but they're all
16 up there, they -- they -- the tourists and they help
17 people fish and all of that are going to lose it. We
18 can't have this pass. Maine is a special place and
19 that's why I stayed.

20 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Barbara Olson.) And this
22 is what we need to not have passed. And thank you
23 for your meeting and thank you for having this.

24 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Roger Merchant.
2 I am from Glenburn, Maine. I've submitted documents
3 to you and I have a couple more tonight.

4 What's my stake in this? It's both personal
5 and professional. Personally, I -- my boots hit the
6 ground in the Upper Moose River Basin in 1967 as a
7 forester and I've since recreated, photographed,
8 fished, camped, taken the children and grandchildren
9 and I am here on behalf of myself and them because we
10 have a very rich three generation legacy of
11 engagement in this landscape that's under attack, I
12 think, from the CMP proposal. I've also documented
13 various features in this landscape over the last
14 three years that deal with scenic loss, that deal
15 with habitat fragmentation, that deal with Jack pine,
16 that deal with pine marten, an indicator species, and
17 the concerns that come out of that come to me as a
18 forester professionally, but also when I go to these
19 hearings I keep getting this mantra response in my
20 head when I hear the CMP presentation is incomplete,
21 incomplete, incomplete, and that has been reinforced
22 here for me tonight as I am listening to the ideas
23 and the information that's being presented. And I
24 think the Environmental Impact Assessment is an
25 important step and I have great questions about the

1 benefit of this project.

2 I brought with me some tools that may be of
3 help to you and they are three aerial photographs,
4 landscape photographs of Beattie Pond, the Notch and
5 Coburn Mountain. Documented on this is the location
6 of all of those primary streams in this landscape on
7 these three examples. Along with that there is the
8 documentation of the corridor cutting across the
9 landscape fragmenting the forest, yes, but then you
10 look at the red zones on here you will see these are
11 highly fragmented forests within all of this. And
12 this will help to give you maybe a way of looking at
13 the story of if we're going to have some kind of
14 Environmental Impact Assessment that's carried out it
15 needs to look at not just the streams and the
16 wetlands, but it also needs to look at the associated
17 landscape conditions, how that impacts the issues of
18 concern environmentally as well as addressing the
19 question, well, you put a 300 foot wide corridor and
20 it will become that.

21 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Nancy Chandler.
24 I've lived for 34 years at the end of the Phippsburg
25 peninsula and experienced many power outages through

1 CMP, five days and sometimes a week. Now, when the
2 power goes out we repower our house from our electric
3 car and keep operating the basics.

4 I'm a science educator. I have done deer
5 yard surveys in Kennebec County, Clinton and Benton,
6 for the Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife. And
7 as a farmer in Monmouth, Maine had to sell a half an
8 acre of my land, the rights on it, to the first CMP
9 expansion project, so I am familiar with their --
10 that process of operating.

11 The timing is not right for this proposal.
12 Maine development of renewable electricity and early
13 climate change mitigation plan we had in the 90s was
14 put on hold from 2010 to 2018 and many new laws
15 passed in the 19-, excuse me, the 2018 Legislature
16 last year that have just allowed and facilitated
17 larger solar projects, more appropriate payment for
18 small solar generators. And we have now a return of
19 a planning agency, which was canceled under the
20 LePage administration, and this planning agency has a
21 large committee but many subcommittees that are
22 working on the impacts of climate change and we are
23 recreating a climate change plan for the State of
24 Maine. One of the goals will certainly be -- okay.
25 Maine right now has 40 percent of our electricity

1 produced by wind mostly and hydropower. Sorry, we
2 only have 100 kilowatts of wind. The state
3 Legislature set a goal of 3,000 kilo- -- megawatts,
4 excuse me, megawatts of wind electricity by next
5 year. Because we've been delayed for eight years
6 with the previous Governor we're nowhere near that --

7 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Nancy Chandler.) -- but
9 we will start moving towards that. So this committee
10 is in the process right now of researching all of the
11 affected industries what need to do to make a smart
12 grid distributed energy, not the old system that
13 doesn't work. So remember Andy Bourque's message of
14 what can be done to save us 2/3 of the cost of new
15 power lines, please.

16 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Nancy Chandler.) Thank
19 you.

20 MS. GOSSELIN: Next up will be Tiffany
21 Jones, Richard Papetti, David Publicover and Julia
22 Gustafson. Go ahead.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Parker
24 Jones. I -- and I just want to get straight to the
25 facts. First, yes, it is going to give the state

1 money, but since we have no way of getting such an
2 important thing, electricity, most likely that money
3 will be put towards electricity -- well, it would be
4 put towards the production of the exact thing that
5 CMP says it will fix and that is global warming.
6 Wouldn't it be a better use of money to invest in
7 renewable resources, alternate energy?

8 Another thing you probably will not think
9 about when you are voting for this is all -- is all
10 of the animals that will lose their homes and safety.
11 The CMP corridor will destroy 263 wetlands, go
12 through the Appalachian Trail, destroy 150 streams,
13 destroy three sanctuaries and other things. Imagine
14 all of the tourists' disappointed faces when they
15 come to Maine and all they can see is power lines.
16 That's hurting Maine's economy again.

17 Another thing that caught my eye as I
18 researched was that CMP has a troubled history. They
19 are currently under investigation for over-billing
20 thousands of Maine customers as well as for their
21 dismissal -- their slow response to a massive power
22 outage last winter that left hundreds of thousands of
23 Mainers without power. The company's CEO publicly
24 apologized for that mistake in a television ad
25 campaign currently running on Maine television.

1 Also, they're being sued for fraud. According to the
2 suit, CMP purposefully deceived customers about the
3 reason for massive spikes in their electric bills, so
4 I certainly would not trust them as the main power
5 source of our neighboring state.

6 As the future of this great State of Maine,
7 I say do not invest in this corridor and instead
8 invest in renewable, sustainable, environmentally
9 conscious energy resources for all. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. Next.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Alex Lee
13 and I have gone to St. John's Catholic School since I
14 was 4 and learned a lot from it.

15 I think that the CMP shouldn't build the
16 power line because it will hurt the environment and
17 they have no proof that this will positively affect
18 the climate, but what we do know is that it will
19 permanently harm the wildlife and this habitat. Even
20 though Maine would get lots of money, it's not worth
21 it. I love nature and will do anything to save it.
22 I think that Governor Janet Mills is only thinking
23 about the money and not about the environment. Some
24 people think that it's good because of the new jobs
25 that will open up to build it, but those jobs will

1 only last about three years.

2 It would also destroy many big landmarks
3 such as the Appalachian Trail, the Kennebec River and
4 many gorges. If all those trees get cut down then
5 the soil will be exposed and eroded. Now, I ask you
6 all, are we trying to save nature or destroy it?
7 Thank you.

8 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. GOSSELIN: Please, go ahead.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name Shannon King. I
12 am 12 years old and I go to St. John's Catholic
13 School in Brunswick.

14 CMP is proposing to build a 145 mile
15 transmission line through the heart of Maine. The
16 corridor won't reduce global greenhouse gas emissions
17 or create sustainable jobs for Maine's people. Some
18 people say it's good for -- good for the habitat,
19 environment, people and money. Habitat fragmentation
20 occurs when a swath is cut through a previously dense
21 forest displacing some animals and causing others to
22 not being able to cross from one segment of forest to
23 another. CMP is proposing to cut 53 miles of new
24 transmission through the undeveloped parts of Maine's
25 north woods. The damage would fragment the largest

1 contiguous temperate forest in North American and
2 around the world. It would cut right through the
3 heart of Maine's brook trout habitat including areas
4 where public agencies and private citizens have spent
5 millions to protect brook trout. The workers would
6 be employed for only about two years and nothing more
7 than three; after that, their time serving the
8 workers would just go right back where they were,
9 unemployed. That's why I think the State of Maine
10 should not vote for the CMP corridor. Thank you.

11 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (David Publicover.) Good
14 evening.

15 MS. GOSSELIN: Oh, I'm sorry. That's my
16 fault. I had called her and then --

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (David Publicover.) Okay.

18 MS. GOSSELIN: She's their teacher.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Tiffany Jones.) I'm
20 their teacher.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (David Publicover.) Oh,
22 good.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Tiffany Jones.) I'll be
24 quick. I have 12 year olds that stayed all night.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. GOSSELIN: Yeah.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So my name is Tiffany
3 Jones. I'm a science teacher at St. John's Catholic
4 School in Brunswick and I have been working with my
5 seventh graders to discuss environmental issues. And
6 we've talked about how each issue has two sides, pros
7 and cons and I challenged the students to research
8 and investigate the propose from -- of the CMP
9 corridor. Unanimously, all of my students, and I
10 have their written letters that we've been working on
11 for a month of research, they all came back with the
12 facts and proof that going forward will absolutely
13 have a negative impact on our environment. There is
14 also no evidence that this project will positively
15 affect the climate.

16 This has provided a real life example to
17 study, not just the impact the tree cutting will
18 have, but also erosion that will take place from the
19 loss of the roots, the habitats for the animals, the
20 organisms, the negative effect on the ecosystem in
21 its entirety, the widespread ramification of
22 biodiversity, the impact on tourism, and also gravely
23 affecting the Kennebec River, Appalachian Trail,
24 there are just a couple specific areas that will
25 negatively affect the state's economy, jobs are going

1 to be created, are only temporary until the job is
2 done and then they'll be gone. All of this my
3 students have already said.

4 Overall, the known negative effects on the
5 environment and climate far outweigh any possible
6 benefit to our climate. We need more research and
7 investments into renewable energy projects with real
8 environmental benefits, not a large scale devastating
9 corridor to make an already corrupt company more
10 wealthy. Let's fund renewable energy projects to
11 benefit Maine, preserve our state the way life should
12 be. Amen.

13 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you for your patience.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right. Thank you and
17 thank you for your patience and endurance. My name
18 is David Publicover. I am a Senior Staff Scientist
19 with the Appalachian Mountain Club.

20 The Western Maine Mountains is the heart of
21 a globally significant forest region extending from
22 northern New Hampshire to Northern Maine that is
23 notable for its lack of permanent development, its
24 natural forest composition and high level of
25 ecological connectivity. The Maine Department of

1 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has stated that
2 Northern Maine is unique. It's the largest area of
3 undeveloped natural forest land in the eastern United
4 States. It is one of the few areas in this region
5 that is sufficiently intact and natural to maintain
6 viable populations of almost all native species.
7 Although the applicant has completely failed to
8 recognize the value of the area but consistently
9 minimizes its values merely intensively managed
10 industrial forest.

11 This project would create a permanently
12 non-forested 150 foot wide corridor across the entire
13 region, one of the largest fragmenting features in
14 this mostly undeveloped landscape. The effects of
15 fragmentation on forests have been well-documented in
16 the scientific literature and the continued loss and
17 degradation of intact forests one of the major
18 threats to biodiversity worldwide. Fragmentation has
19 multiple adverse effects on forests in addition to
20 the direct loss of habitat the most significant
21 include edge effects and the barrier to species and
22 movement.

23 Now, the supporters of the project has cited
24 the pressing need to address our climate crisis and
25 we could not agree more. However, even if one

1 assumes that this project would have true greenhouse
2 gas benefits for the world, which we do not accept,
3 there are far less destructive ways to get this power
4 into the New England market. The Applicant's
5 alternatives analysis is insufficient, failed to
6 consider the alternative burial along existing
7 corridors, an approach that was considered practical
8 by projects -- competing projects in both New
9 Hampshire and Vermont. Only after the issue became
10 unavoidable did they come up with an after the fact
11 justification for why it was not feasible.

12 So we urge the Corps to deny this permit as
13 not being in the public interest. Thank you.

14 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. GOSSELIN: And I'm going to call up the
17 next folks. Richard Papetti -- oh, did I already do
18 these? Roger Zimmerman, Robert Rowe, Matthew Wagner
19 and Frederick Lidstone. Go ahead.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very much. One
21 of the things that I think is very important is
22 reputation and past bad behavior and this is the case
23 with CMP. CMP has really been a terrible company.
24 You hear what they say about the retail side, you
25 know, the controversy with the billing, et cetera.

1 This is on the business side and this amplifies what
2 somewhat said earlier, in the Portland Press Herald
3 dated November 14, that's Maine's biggest newspaper
4 is the Portland Press Herald, November 14 states the
5 following: CMP dead last in U.S. in survey of
6 business customers satisfaction. That's not retail
7 customers, that's business customers. The J.D. Power
8 survey sought opinions from 21,000 business customers
9 of 87 utilities nationwide. It shows the Maine power
10 company trailing even Pacific Gas and Electric, which
11 has been linked to wild fires and filed for
12 bankruptcy. Central Maine Power ranks last in a
13 nationwide survey for business customers opinion of
14 their utility company even behind California. That's
15 huge information that I think you guys should use in
16 saying you've got to hold them to a higher standard,
17 you know, because that's horrible. Thank you.

18 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. GOSSELIN: The other folks that I called
21 may have left, so I'll go to the next four. Elia
22 Nichols, Karen Tucker, William Wallace and Richard
23 Baillargeon.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Actually, I'm Roger
25 Zimmerman and I didn't leave.

1 MS. GOSSELIN: Oh, good. We're glad you're
2 here. Please continue.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Roger Zimmerman. I
4 am -- I live in East Bethel. I'm a retired doctor
5 and a non-retired registered Maine Guide.

6 The first thing I want to say, did those
7 kids leave?

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, they're right there.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Roger Zimmerman.) Okay.
10 Hey, kids, I've got something to say to you. I am 80
11 and every so often I need an injection of hope.
12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Roger Zimmerman.) I am
15 going to try and make this very quick. Wow. It's
16 like racing. I have five questions and I gave an
17 answer to all of them. I'm going to put it all in
18 better writing because nobody could read my writing
19 and submit it.

20 The first question I had is this project
21 beneficial for the people of Maine and the answer is
22 no. And I actually used the description from the
23 Corps, quote, the decision whether to issue a permit
24 will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact
25 of the proposed activity on the public interest and

1 you mention a number of factors that go into this,
2 conservation and economics and aesthetics and so on
3 and so forth. And your last sentence in general, the
4 needs and welfare of the people, how could you
5 possibly make a decision in favor of this project --
6 in favor of the needs and welfare of the people when,
7 and that's your sentence, when over 20 Maine towns
8 have either turned down the project or rescinded
9 their support? The people have given you an answer.
10 They don't want it.

11 Well, previous speakers -- holy smokes --
12 have addressed some of the environmental concern and
13 so on and so forth -- can I have a couple more
14 seconds? I want to mention something that hasn't
15 been mentioned. You remember the ice storm? I don't
16 know whether you remember the ice storm. You
17 remember the ice storm of '98? There is a picture
18 that's in my mind of a bunch of towers exactly the
19 way CMP wants -- the same towers that CMP wants to
20 build as -- they were in Southern Quebec and what
21 happened to them as a result of the ice storm? You
22 know what happened to them? They were pretzels.

23 In my work as a back country ski guide this
24 has involved -- brought me into a lot of snow signs
25 beginning about 20 years ago --

1 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Roger Zimmerman.) I
3 should stop?

4 MS. GOSSELIN: Well, if you have a finishing
5 last sentence.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Roger Zimmerman) A
7 finishing statement. I wish I -- I hope what I'm
8 about to say is wrong, but I don't think so, we're
9 going to have many more ice storms, more intense and
10 more frequent and CMP hasn't taken this into account
11 at all what's going to happen to those towers that
12 they want to build.

13 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Roger Zimmerman.) Thank
15 you for your consideration.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. GOSSELIN: Okay. And before you go, I'm
18 going to keep going down the list then and see who
19 the last remaining people are.

20 COLONEL CONDE: Beth, we've got about --

21 MS. GOSSELIN: Five minutes. Four minutes.

22 COLONEL CONDE: -- four or five minutes --

23 MS. GOSSELIN: Okay.

24 COLONEL CONDE: -- so we probably have
25 enough time for a couple more.

1 MS. GOSSELIN: Okay. So Scott Benson and
2 Mariel Geiger.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'll speak on behalf of
4 Scott. He left.

5 MS. GOSSELIN: Okay. Come on up then,
6 please. And then Jason Levesque. Okay. Go ahead.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. A lot of what
8 I had to say has already been covered, so I sort of
9 scribbled out a lot of things, so I'll do my best to
10 keep this brief. My name is Matt Wagner. I'm a
11 volunteer, founder and board member of Say No to
12 NECEC, a non-profit 9,000 member group opposing CMP's
13 efforts to build this. We came out of the woods two
14 years ago to oppose this and we can't wait to go
15 back. I am here to speak to you in defense of the
16 Kennebec River, a place that I know as home and I
17 intend to hear my children call home. Thank you for
18 holding this meeting tonight and I'll make this
19 brief.

20 As we've heard from our northern neighbors,
21 the impact of Hydro-Quebec's dams is nothing short of
22 genocide. If you research this yourself, you'll come
23 to the same conclusion. These dams could not be
24 built in the USA. They would not be legal, period.
25 Why should we allow them to bring this energy here?

13 Lastly, I need to affirm that Maine people
14 have never been more united on anything as they are
15 in their opposition to NECEC. And CMP can spend all
16 of millions they want on ads, we're not stupid.
17 We've got loggers, environmentalists and almost all
18 union members in this state standing with us in
19 opposition to this project. Those are a lot of the
20 people they like to say are going to benefit.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Matt Marks.) Yup.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Matt Marks.) We are here
25 as the experts on your homeland, we're educated,

1 we're committed to the truth and we hope you intend
2 to see this through.

3 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. GOSSELIN: This is our last speaker of
6 the night.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ooh, yes, thank you. Good
8 evening. My name is Shanna Cox and I am the CEO and
9 President of the Lewiston/Auburn Metropolitan Chamber
10 of Commerce. I'm delivering comments tonight on
11 behalf of my business members as well as the
12 Mid-Coast Chamber as well.

13 We represent 900 members, 40,000 employees
14 across 14 communities in the L/A region. As a
15 community-minded organization of businesses, the L/A
16 Metro Chamber is an engine for economic vitality and
17 enhanced quality of life in our region. We are a
18 not-for-profit organization supported through
19 membership dues and contributes. Our purpose is to
20 make Lewiston/Auburn a welcoming place to do business
21 and an ideal place to live. The economic benefits of
22 the NECEC project will significantly advance our
23 local mission. Some of these numbers that you've
24 already heard tonight and I will simply pull up again
25 is the \$250 million of upgrades to the Larrabee Road

1 substation bringing in \$50 million net cash revenue
2 to Lewiston and Auburn over a 20 year period,
3 delivering 1,200 megawatts of clean, reliable power
4 that displaces the fossil-based energy that currently
5 fills a portion of our market. 73 percent of the
6 transmission line is an existing transmission
7 corridor, the balance is in an industrial forest land
8 heavily logged and bisected by logging roads and
9 skidder trails.

10 I would like to note that myself and the
11 families that I represent enjoy outdoor activities,
12 recreating in remote parts in our state. I grew up
13 in the Katahdin region in the summer. I believe we
14 have a real treasure in our woods, our waters and our
15 mountains. I believe we need to protect our
16 resources. This project does that over the
17 long-term. It adds clean energy, displaces the
18 fossil-based energy sources and leaves a minimal
19 impact on our environment. I know you're most
20 interested in whether we need an EIS or an EA. While
21 I am no expert, though there is some background in my
22 education for this, I would say that waiting too long
23 is not something we can afford to do. Thank you.

24 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you. I'd like to thank
25 everybody for staying with us and we apologize if not

1 everybody was able to speak. Oh, did I call your
2 name?

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, but may I say that I
4 drove from Jackman, Maine two-and-a-half hours and
5 submitted my name to be -- to speak and I did mine
6 very differently. Photographs. Can I just show
7 three photographs that will discredit CMP's claims
8 about our region being decimated by logging or that
9 they're going to use existing power lines?

10 MS. GOSSELIN: Ma'am, you can enter them
11 into the record over to the right.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you so much for the
13 process, you know.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me, ma'am, but Fred
15 Lidstone was signed up and he left, so -- and I also
16 did and I didn't speak. Would you please honor her
17 presence?

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Please do.

19 COLONEL CONDE: Ma'am, you can bring them --
20 you can bring them right up. Set them right there.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want to show these to --
22 well, I see Thorne, he knows our region. We know the
23 true reason -- the whole reason for this is to get
24 corridor status. No one else has said that tonight.
25 This region that is being threatened is not decimated

1 by a logging industry. This is a 40 foot wide
2 clearcut of the Maine/Quebec border. 40 feet. We're
3 not talking about 300 feet that's coming forth, so
4 that will give you an idea of what 300 feet will look
5 like. This is a boreal forest. I'm looking right
6 into Canada here. Beattie Pond. Well, yeah, Beattie
7 is spared. The Merrill strip is in here to. This
8 region is not decimated by logging. This is a boreal
9 forest. You see all of that color? That is an
10 October 10 flight over the region. We have
11 waterways. We have the rivers. We have ponds. We
12 have open regions. This is an intact boreal forest.
13 Dirt roads. This is the Spencer Road. This isn't
14 the widened out Spencer Road that we're seeing at the
15 front end. This is the true corridor that brings we,
16 the people, of the Jackman area into our woods where
17 we recreate. And you asked about historically
18 significant impacts, the Spencer Road at Mile 12
19 brings you to the World War II POW Camp Memorial
20 site. There will be no escaping the ugly brown
21 monster that is going to come across this road 12
22 times maybe.

23 I'll just go to the last one. This the
24 Attean Overlook and it doesn't even show you the full
25 expanse of the western look at -- Number 5 Mountain

1 is not even here, but this will be dominated by the
2 corridor. I am from an eight generation family in
3 Jackman. I am a retired registered nurse who lived
4 in the southwest and watched the decimation of the
5 Sonoran Desert and the Arago Desert to bring
6 insatiable power needs to California and Vegas. I
7 don't want to see this happen in my home.

8 And I thank you for the time to speak. I
9 don't mean to be pushy, but I was an elder care
10 consultant and I had Sacramento on speed dial. See
11 something, say something is part of who I am.

12 MS. GOSSELIN: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 COLONEL CONDE: Listen, first, I'd like to
15 apologize for folks that have been waiting
16 three-and-a-half hours and if we did not -- were not
17 able to get to you tonight, so I'm sorry for that,
18 but please know your comments if you submit them up
19 front, you submit them online or in the mail, we will
20 consider those before any decision is made. I'd also
21 like to remind folks that we'll continue to take
22 comments, both written and in mail and on email, up
23 to 6 January and all those comments will be
24 considered equally before I make a decision as a
25 District Commander on this permit. Thank you.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for your time.

2 COLONEL CONDE: The hearing is now closed.

3

4 (Hearing concluded at 8:06 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Robin J. Dostie, a Court Reporter and
Notary Public within and for the State of Maine, do
hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of the proceedings as taken by me
by means of stenograph,

and I have signed:

/s/ Robin J. Dostie

Court Reporter/Notary Public

My Commission Expires: February 6, 2026

DATED: December 13, 2019

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